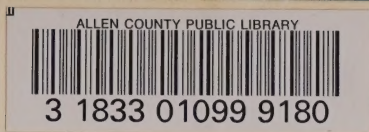
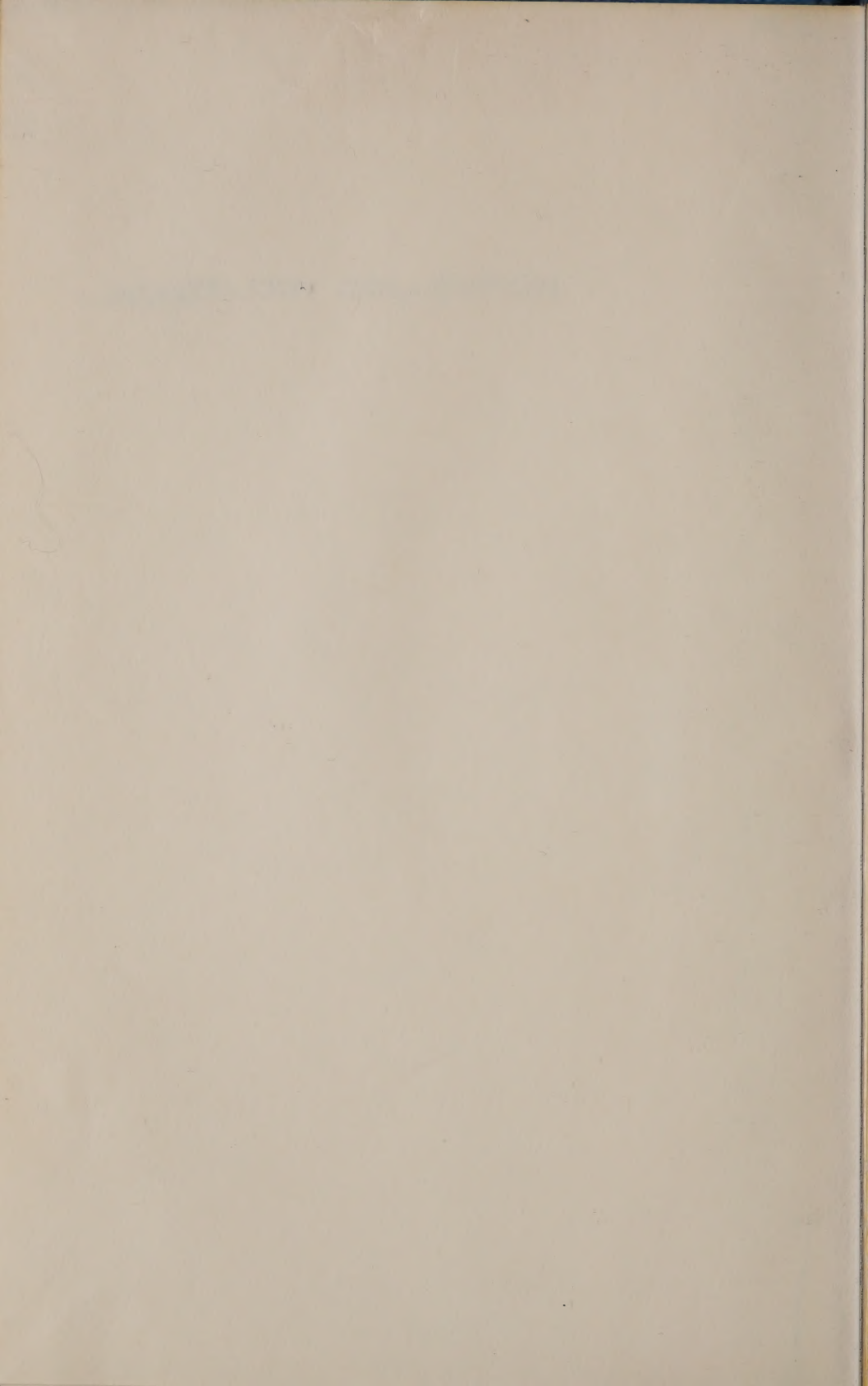
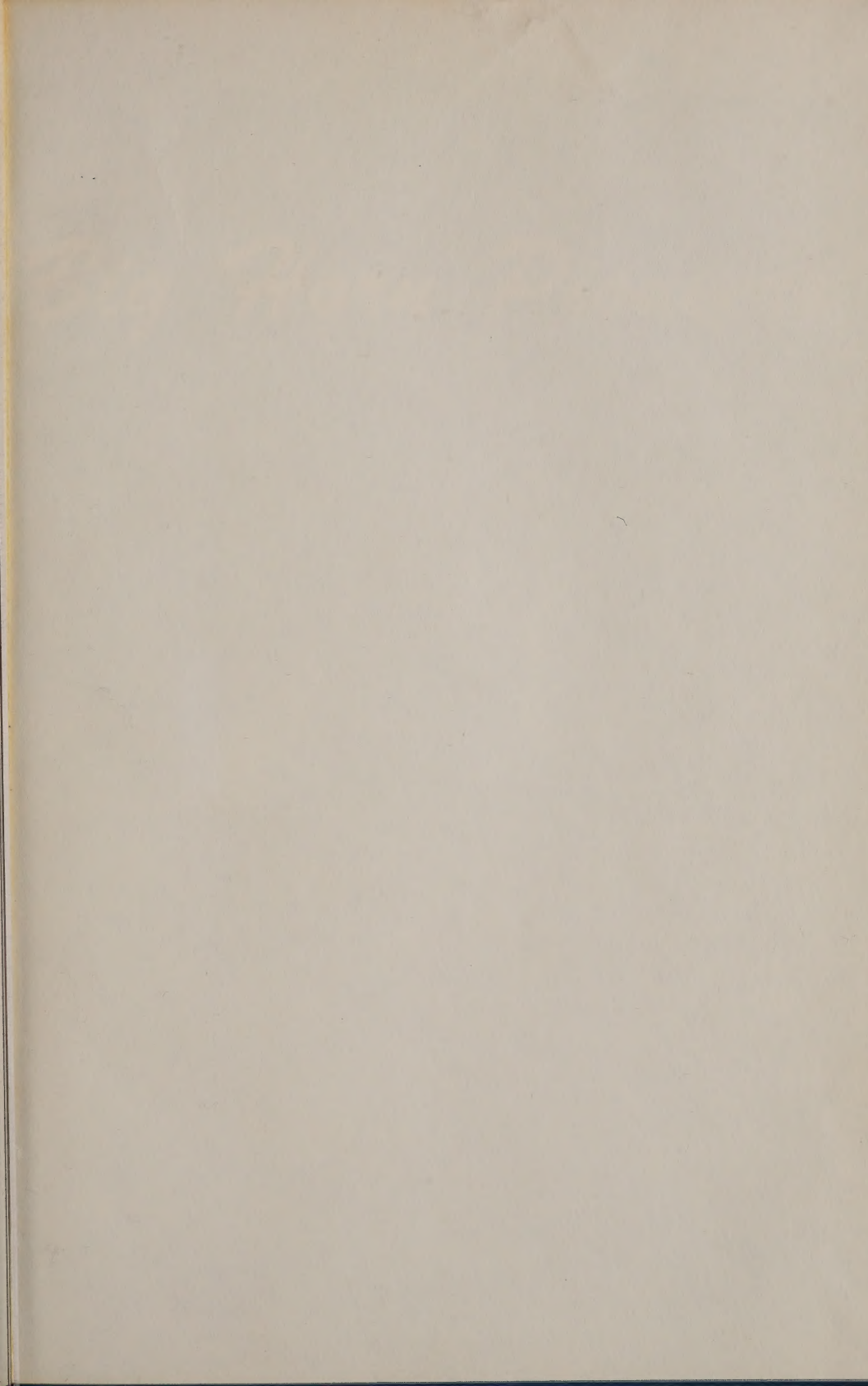


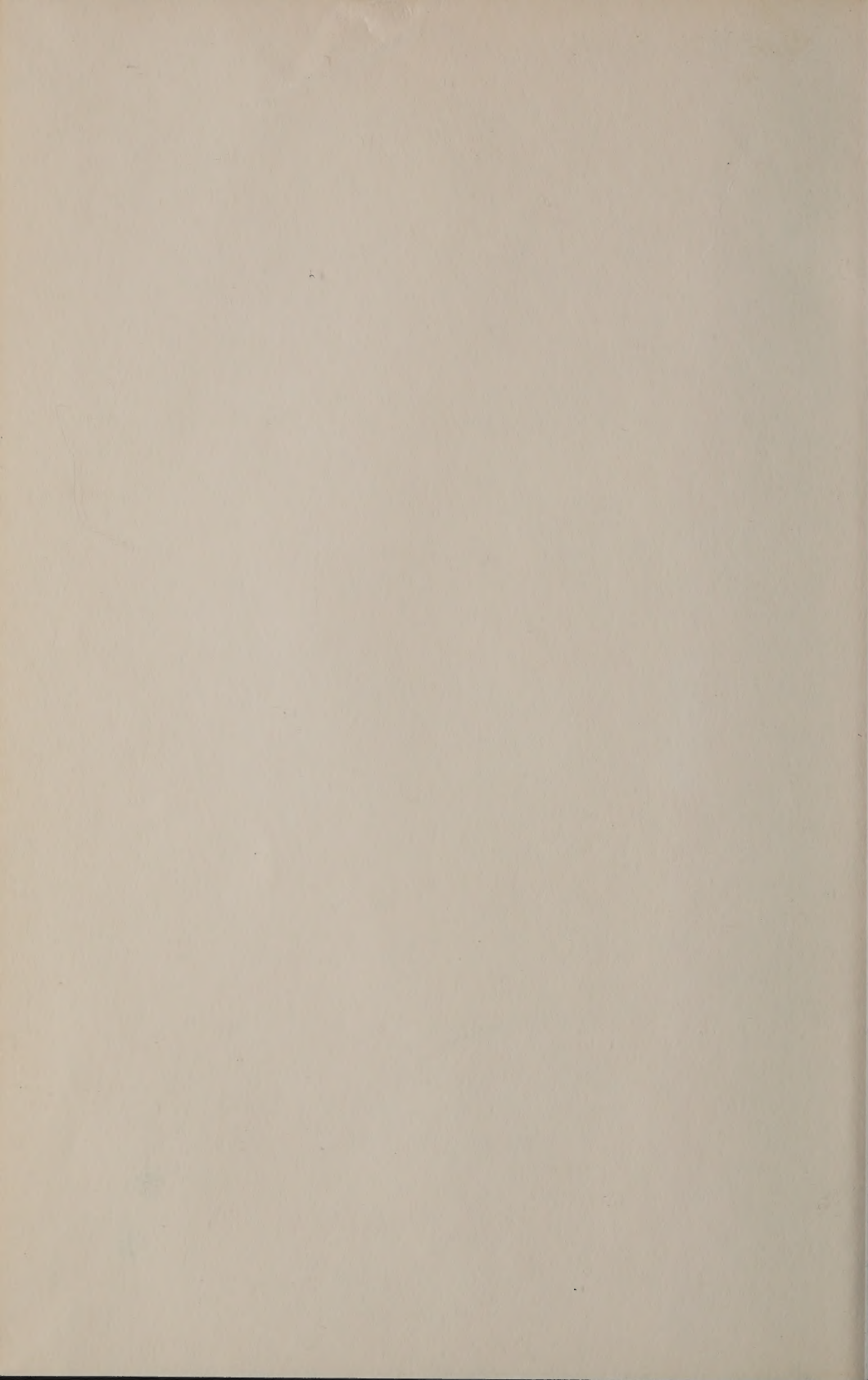
Gc
978.702
B48g
1295364

GENEALOGY COLLECTION





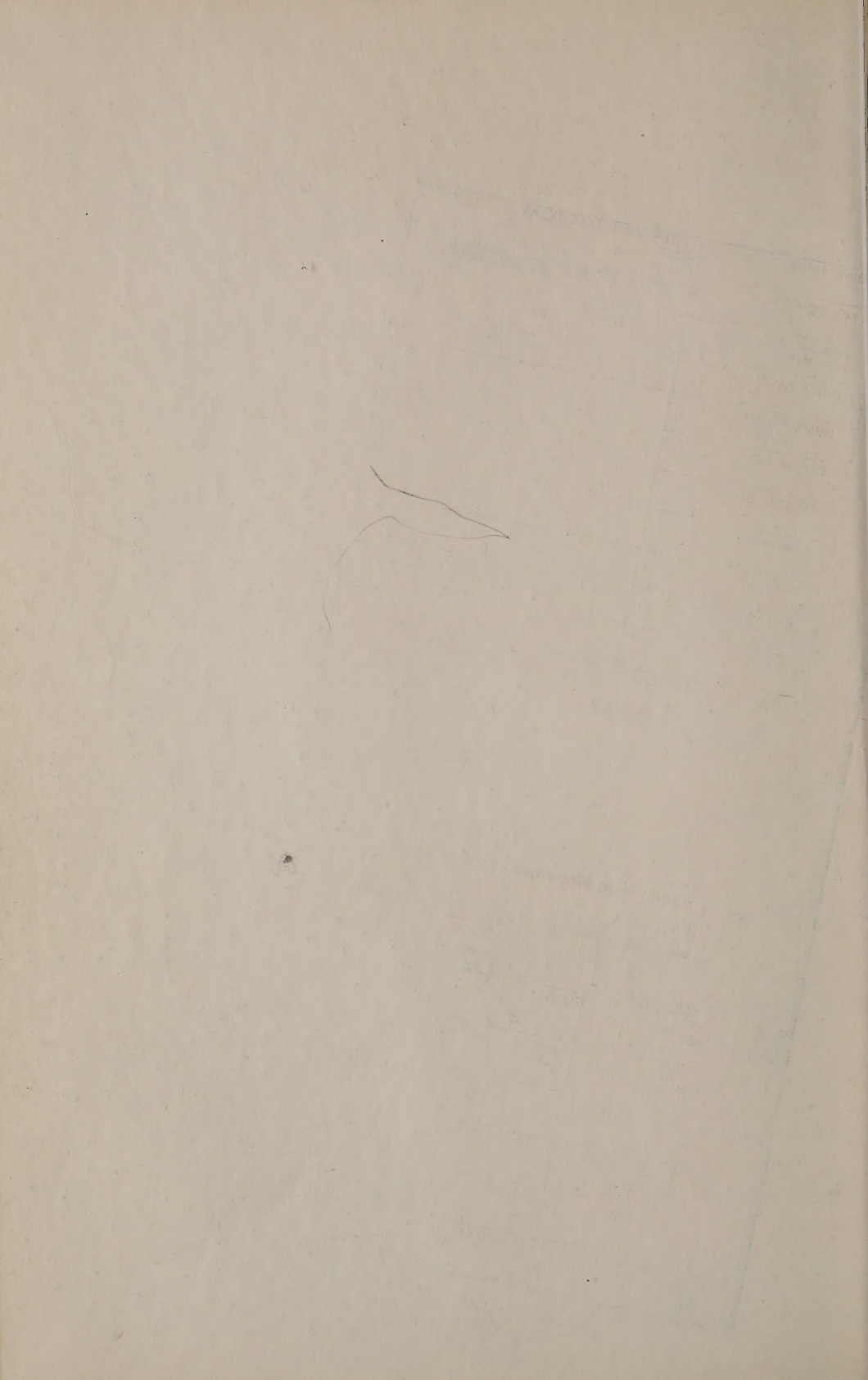




Send in cover

Big Horn Pioneers





Foreword

Dear Readers:

We hope the names, spellings, and the dates are accurate. If you are able, please criticize kindly and make corrections for future benefit. Please do not rub off the dust nor shovel the sod from the human faults and weaknesses that we have left covered unless there are no skeletons in your family closet. We trust you will encourage youth to continue the record since 1900, where we have tried to stop, and to write stories of our pristine valley as our grandparents idealized it. These ideals made Don DeJarnett in Sheridan College write on "Big Horn City" his excellent paper that motivated Superintendent W. W. DeJarnett's request that during the school year 1957-58 pupils write for English credit a paper about some item of Big Horn's Pioneer Beginnings.

Vie Willits Garber
Librarian
Big Horn School Library
March, 1959

Throughout this publication footnote comments have been added by Carl L. Sackett. Mr. Sackett is one of the best living authorities on early Big Horn and has aided materially in supplying much authentic historical data. His comments are initialed C.L.S. at the end of chapters in which they appear.

BIG HORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Big Horn, Wyoming
First Revised Edition
— Copyrighted 1961 —

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ANDERSON, JOHN	HELVEY, ANN
AVERY, DIXIE	HELVEY, LONA MARTIN
BARD, TOM	HENRY, MARY
BARRETT, NOLA	HILMAN, FRED
BETTCHER, BETSEY	HOLMES, SHIRLEY RAE
BETTCHER, STEVEN	JOHNSON, RALPH
BLACKBURN, BILL	JOSEPH, OLLIE
BLANEY, DAN	KUCHERA, ALDRICH
COUGHRAN, PAM	McHENRY, KENNETH
DALY, PHEBE	MILLS, SARAH
DeJARNETT, DONALD	MOORE, JUDITH
DEWEY, JOYCE	MORTENSON, REBECCA
DEWEY, JUDITH	MYERS, PATSEY
EDMISTON, PATTY	PELISSIER, SUZANNE
EGBERT, MAZIE H.	POWERS, VICKI
FARMEN, NOLAN	RHOADES, HARVEY
GARBER, KAREN	RALSTON, GAYLE
GARBER, LYNDA	RUZICKA, JOHN Jr.
GARBER, NICKI	SACKETT, CARL L.
GARBER, RICHARD STORY	SACKETT, EDDIE
GARRETT, BETTY	SCHRATER, VIRGINIA
GENEREAUX, PETER	SHAW, NADINE
HANSLIP, EDITH	STEVENS, CHARLES
HARRIS, LINDA	VANDENBERG, SHIRLEY

MRS. ELIZABETH SHELTON

MISS JOY ASH

MRS. MABLE LODGE, English Instructor

MRS. NORENE BAXTER, Typing Instructor

MRS. MARSIELLA GREENFIELD, English I Instructor

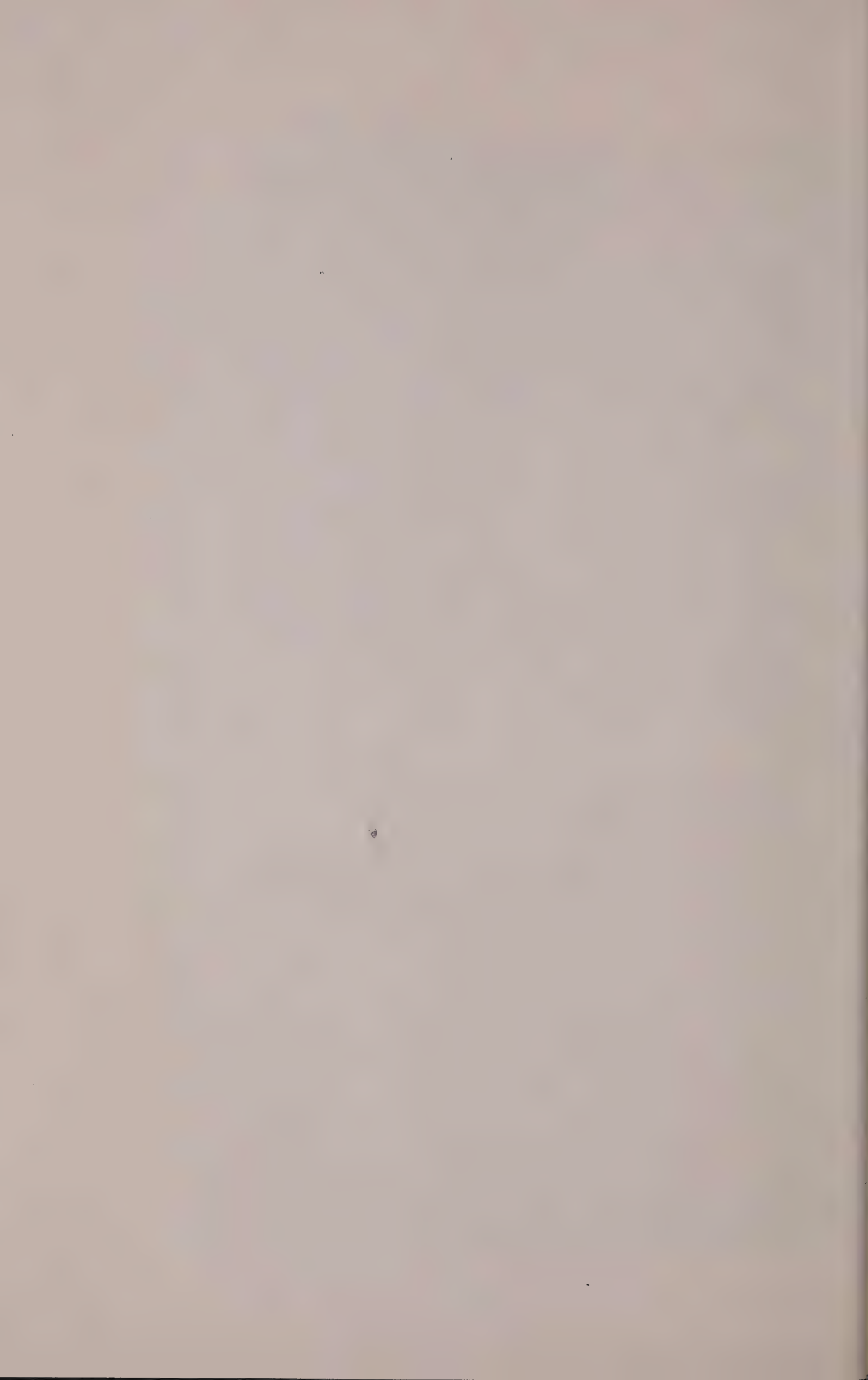
GLENN BLACKBURN, Manual Arts

VIE WILLITS GARBER, Librarian

W. W. DeJARNETT, Superintendent



RECOGNITION AWARD—Mrs. Vie Willits Garber receiving recognition at the 1961 Big Horn High School Commencement exercises. Left to right: Walter Moore, high school principal; Charles Fifield, commencement speaker; W. W. DeJarnett, superintendent of schools; Mrs. Vie Willits Garber receiving the first copy of Big Horn Pioneers; John Genereaux, instructor; Mrs. Mary W. Helvey, board of trustees, making the presentation; Paul Garber, grandson of Mrs. Garber. Not shown: graduates of the Class of '61; Tom Garber, grandson off Mrs. Garber, Zane Hilman and John Brayton, trustees.



O. P. Hanna

SARAH MILLS

Oliver Perry Hanna was born May 10, 1851 in Metamora, Illinois, the son of Harvey and Nancy (Taylor) Hanna, natives of Pennsylvania who had come to Illinois by way of the Ohio river.

Having grown up interested in the West, at the age of 17, Oliver set out for it. He went from Fort Scott, Kansas, to Deer Lodge, Montana Territory. During the next ten years, young Hanna's restless urge to see new country caused him in varying employment to take part in Hayden's survey of Yellowstone Park; supply-wagon hauling at Red Cloud Agency; prospecting and Indian fighting with the Bozeman Expedition of 1874; supply-wagon work with General Crook's command from Fort Fetterman northwestward along the Bozeman Trail (this was his first look at Little Goose valley); scouting, trapping, and buffalo hunting along the Yellowstone river; until, after a winter's visit in Illinois, having started with a pack horse back to Virginia City, Montana, he accepted a contract to supply Fort McKinney with fresh game meat. This was how it happened in 1878 that Hanna staked off his claim on Little Goose along a side creek that was soon named "Hanna Creek" for him.

He improved a cabin already there and soon added a large room. Seeing the possibilities of improving his farm, he drove a buckboard on a 700-mile trek to Cheyenne and back for a plow and seed oats. He often in later years bragged that he turned the first furrow in what became Sheridan County. His crop was a success. He threshed it with a flail and sold it for 10 cents per pound in 1881.

The next year his sister, Miss Laura Hanna, came to keep house for him until she later married Mr. Will Burgess, an older brother of "Harry" who became our District Judge James Henry Burgess.

Mr. Hanna's bragging about "Big Horn City" was an important factor in a post office's being established and the town's being platted early in 1881. For a few months before that mail to residents on Goose Creek and there-a-bouts had been left at the Creighton ranch as the mail was being sent from Fort McKinney to Custer Station on the Yellowstone.

Mr. Hanna had the Hotel built across the street from the post office and leased its operation to various persons. It was

to that building that he brought his bride, Dora Myers, whom he had met when visiting his brother in Bloomington, Illinois. In June of 1885 Miss Myers, accompanying westward-bound friends traveling by way of the Northern Pacific Railway to Miles City, Montana, met Mr. Hanna. They were married by the Reverend Horsfall. After the customary dinner and charivari, they took the train to Custer Station and transferred to the south-bound stage coach for a thirty-hour continuous ride to Big Horn, stopping only to change teams.

In readiness for the bride Mrs. Barton (the widow who became Mrs. Russell, mother of Mr. A. A. "Doc" Russell) had the front upstairs bedroom freshly wallpapered and had tin cans holding blooming red geraniums in the window.

To the Hanna cabin soon four rooms were added. The original "first cabin" room became the "parlor" and was lined with muslin on which was pasted the same gilt-figured paper used in the hotel bedroom. Mr. Hanna's former hospitality was exceeded only by his wife's. There had been the first church service, the first Sunday School organization. After the bride came, many social events of the young community centered there.

Mr. Hanna sold to Mr. Oliver Wallop in 1891. Thereafter they resided in Sheridan where the Hanna and Henschke Store was a continuation of the Conrad firm. Mr. Hanna became in turn, postmaster, county representative, and county treasurer.

Because of poor health he moved to Long Beach, California, where he was made a member of the Adventurer's Club of Long Beach, which is quite a privilege because there are only four chapters in the United States. He died there at the age of eighty-three.

(1958, living) Merle Hanna, Mrs. D. E. Corfield, 1757 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, California.

Jesse Hanna died in Long Beach.

Laura Hanna, Mrs. C. L. Carter, Sheridan, died.

Her son, Charles Hanna Carter, is an attorney in Long Beach, California.

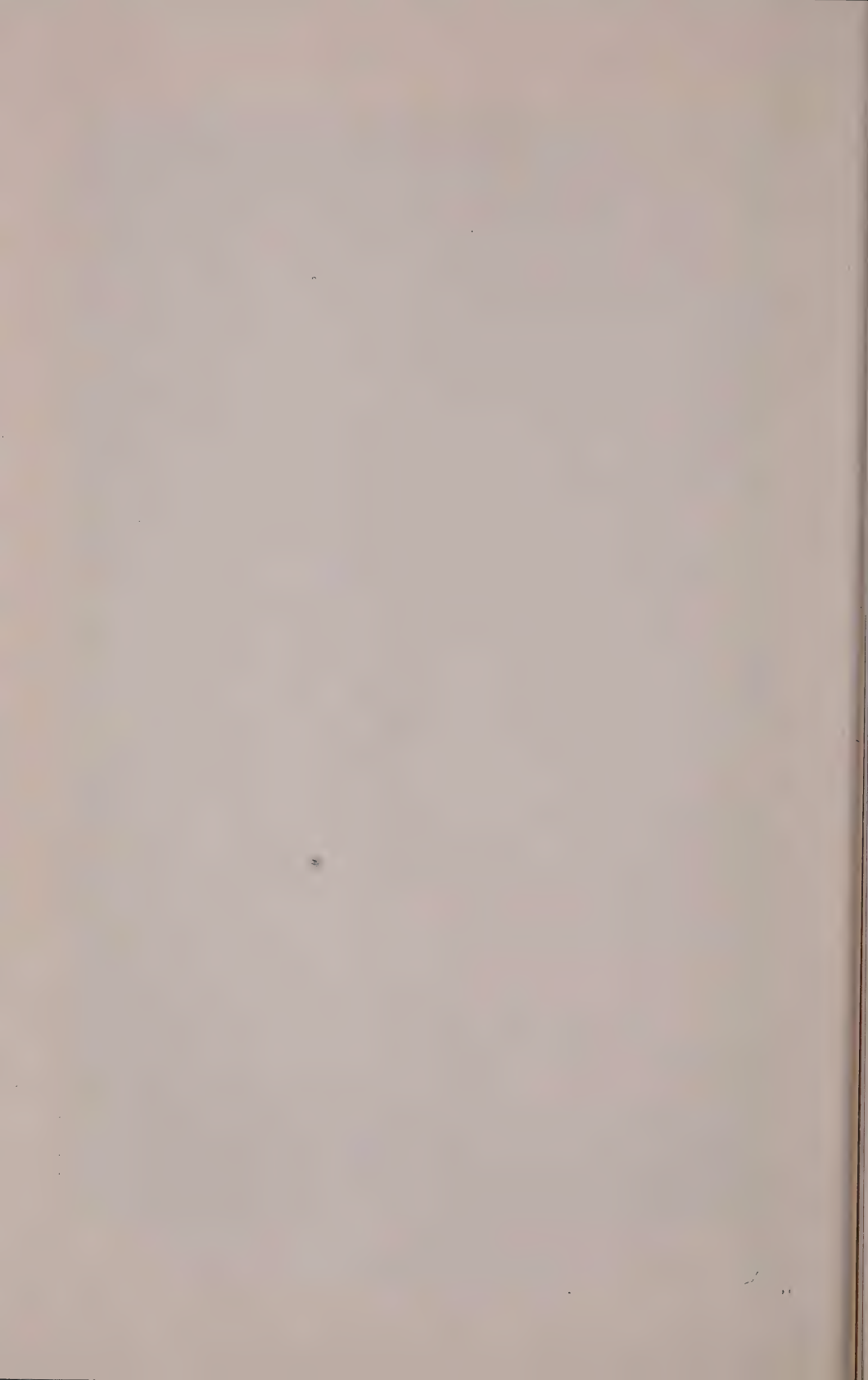
Mrs. O. P. Hanna for years preceding 1950 was "Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Long Beach March of Dimes." She died at the Corfield Home, May 24, 1953 at 90 years of age.

The ranch, that has had many owners, in 1958 belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Howie.

A 20-acre tract that includes the site of the "Hanna Cabin" marker belongs to Mr. and Mrs. John A. Mills.



O. P. HANNA FAMILY—As they lived on their ranch. Tressie Merle, Dora Myers Hanna, Laura, O. P. Hanna and Jesse.



Aunt Jenny

VICKI POWERS

The story of the first pioneer family who settled in the Little Goose Creek Valley. (Told to me by Fred Hilman).

Grandfather was a captain of wagon trains for twenty years. For several years he supervised wagons on the Santa Fe Trail. He then traveled on the South Pass Trail and finished on the Bozeman Trail, traveling through Little Goose Valley. During the years of 1860-1870 he worked for the government and started Fort Smith, Fort Phil Kearny and Fort Reno.

My grandmother died in 1878 and about the first of 1879 grandfather married my father's sister, Jenny Hilman.

Grandfather wanted to come to Wyoming to settle in the Goose Creek Valley, but Aunt Jenny wanted to go to Oregon. Early in the spring of 1879 thirteen wagons with four mules on each left Independence, Missouri, for Oregon. My mother, only 16 years old drove one of the wagons and Aunt Jenny, who was only 21, yet the oldest of the women, was the mother of the wagon train.

The wagon train crossed Little Goose Creek at the lower crossing the 11th day of June, 1879. At the point of crossing, were the James Brothers' dugouts. In the corral there were 300 stolen horses.

My mother was the first to cross the creek. The strong current whipped the mules around and it was a hopeless situation, until a Negro came out of a dugout, realized what had happened, and went into the dugout and returned with a lariat. He threw the loop over the mule's neck, climbed on a saddle horse, and helped the first wagon across. Grandfather had heard of Nigger John and called him by his name, but received no response.

The wagon train moved on and camped in a circle where the present-day Women's Club Building is. That night Nigger John came to grandfather's wagon and talked with him in secrecy because the James gang would shoot him if they knew. Nigger John in southern Missouri had belonged to grandfather's uncle, Redman Wolfly, the father of Mrs. Bell Bales. During the Civil War, Nigger John ran away and joined the James gang. Nigger John left saying goodbye and telling grandfather to put the mules inside of the circle because the gang was planning to take them and leave. After Nigger John left, the men took down four or six end-gates and placed them on the ground for a platform, and with

grandfather's' playing the violin a full night of dancing progressed. But before the dancing started, grandfather announced that this was as far as he was going. The rest of the train could do what they wished. Aunt Jenny and the family raised the dickens, as they wanted to go to Oregon.

Grandfather settled the discontent by stating that they had crossed Goose Creek and were in Oregon Territory because all the land on the other side of the creek was Wyoming. They stayed.

The next day two men rode into camp. One of them was Frank James. They had come to say goodbye for they were going up the trail, and that was the first time grandfather saw Frank James.

The Davis wagon that included grandfather, Sylvester, Lydia, Mae and Aunt Jenny selected a beautiful homestead along the foot of the Big Horns.

Grandfather obtained a contract to put up hay for army horses at Fort McKinney. Later he built the first saw mill. From the ruins of Fort Phil Kearny he got iron and old wheels to be used in his mill and construction of a carriage. The remaining needed material was obtained from the old Crook Camp Ground. In 1880 grandfather had enough lumber to build a barn, and they built the first two-story frame house. This house burned a couple of years after Oliver H. Wallop bought it. Around the house was the first picket fence. Grandfather sold the ranch in 1895 to Wallop and moved to the Hilman ranch. They moved to Spear Ranch and then to Big Horn for almost two years. They went to Oregon for three years and then came back to Big Horn.

Grandfather died January 1, 1902. After his death Aunt Jenny lived in Big Horn until she died. She was active in church work and did a lot of nursing. In the spring of 1880 Aunt Jenny assisted with the birth of the first white baby in this area.

She was known as the foremost lady in Big Horn for years and years. She kept the school teachers for years, and she always had parties for the folks.

Although Aunt Jenny did not have much to work with, she could get up the best meal at any time. She could cook venison better than anyone I ever knew and she had the world beat for frying fish. She took care of people who did not have homes. After Mrs. Jennings's death, Aunt Jenny took care of George and Tony Jennings, whose father was the first resident pastor of the Congregational denomination.

To show the community's love for Aunt Jenny, Mrs. Vie W. Garber wrote the following:

Thimble Rock was named "Aunt Jenny's Thimble" for her.

Sheridan Press Dec. 12, 1933
PUBLIC FORUM

In Memory

In the passing of Mrs. Jenny Davis our community has lost much. For three generations hers has been an outstanding personality in our midst. The early settlers, their children, and their children's children have admired her forceful determination and her stately dignity which are depicted by these incidents we have heard her recall.

The Davis family were living in their first Wyoming home, now the Wallop (Earl of Portsmouth) ranch. The men were operating a sawmill in Little Goose Canyon. The lumber for the cabin floor was ready, but days passed and no one had time to lay it. One night upon returning from work they found the supper table was set as usual but to their surprise the cabin was floored. Mrs. Davis had removed the furniture, hoisted the stove onto logs by means of a lever, and completed the floor; then lowered the stove, put all in order, and prepared the evening meal unassisted.

Once a gang of horsemen whom Mrs. Davis instinctively knew to be the James Brothers rode up to the cabin. She stood in the doorway while they replaced their guns in the holsters and politely asked if she would feed them. She deftly prepared for them the company fare of a frontier kitchen: potato soup, venison steak, and buffalo berry pie. They ate and then courteously bowing and thanking her, departed.

What child was not thrilled to hear her relate the time she was picking service berries for her family and discovered a bear was picking for himself on the other side of the bush!

During the years on the ranch as well as during those spent in the town of Big Horn, her home was a retreat for many souls who came to her as guests or boarders. It can truly be said of our "Aunt Jenny"

"None knew her but to love her

None named her but to praise."

On Monday afternoon, while we met in Sheridan with bowed heads to pay our respects at her funeral service, the children of Big Horn expressed their love and reverence by standing with bowed heads as the school bell tolled, that pioneer bell she had been instrumental in replacing at the new school house.

"Aunt Jenny" was a friend, a confidant, a guide, an example to us all. Our lives are richer because we have sojourned in the shadow of her influence.

“Until we meet against around His Throne
 Clothed in the spotless robe He gives His own
 Until we know, even as we are known,
 Good night!”

Mr. W. F. (Bear Davis) was born in Nodaway County, Missouri, June 10, 1836. He died at Rock Springs, Wyoming, January 1, 1902. He had been in charge of shipping car loads of horses for the Wallop-Moncreiffe contracts of British Cavalry being inspected at Big Horn and then shipped to South Africa. Diphtheria caused his death and quarantine regulations demanded the burial of his remains there. Not only his family but his home locality was shocked.

Nigger John's cabin and horse-shoeing shop was on what was later the Wagner place about 100 yards north of LeRoy Sackett's service station.

The cross-cut saw mentioned on page 6 was a two-man saw with rocker arms from the water wheel. It took one-half hour to run through a 10-ft. log.

It is believed that the James Brothers never removed their guns when they ate at the Davis cabin, and that they left a twenty-dollar gold piece.

It is likely that "Nigger John's Dugout" was actually that of Dutch Jake and used by a beaver trapper, Maynard, Mrs. Woodley's father.—C.L.S.



BIG HORN CITY.—Taken from Sackett's hill, 1893. Smoke southwest of College rising from brick kiln as bricks were being made to build the Church, now Community Center. Note "Nigger John's dugout" door in creek bank. (Courtesy of Skinner family.)

The Hilman Family

MR. FRED HILMAN

Before the Civil War and during the time the war was in progress, the Hilman family lived in Pennsylvania and Maryland on what at that time was called a large farm. Partly separated by the state line the farm was known as the "Old Pennsylvania-Maryland State Line" farm. The Hilman family was considered fairly well-to-do before the Civil War came on but, because of the continued raids of both the northern and southern armies, the "Old State Line" farm and its occupants were reduced to a very sad state indeed.

My grandfather, George Washington Hilman, was four years in the Union Army.

The buildings on the old farm were separated by the state line. The house was on the Maryland side while the barn and the out buildings were on the Pennsylvania side of the line. Father often told the following story: "He was born on the Maryland side, but, had he been born in the manger as the Christ child Jesus was, he forever after would have been a Pennsylvania Dutchman."

Daniel Thomas Hilman was born July 23, 1852. He left home at the age of 16 years. He joined up with a trail herd boss on the old Chisholm Trail and for some years thereafter drove cattle herds in and out of Old Abilene, Kansas. While in that state he purchased a section of land from the railroad at Culver, Kansas, and immediately moved his Hilman family thereto.

From Kansas his trail led to Colorado where at Leadville he owned and operated a number of mining claims until the year 1880 at which time his health failed and he was hospitalized for several months. When he was released from the hospital and was still unable to work and found his finances greatly reduced, his thoughts naturally turned to the family again. So next we find him visiting his sister, Mrs. Jennie Davis in the Upper Goose Creek Valley of northern Wyoming. His arrival was the 31st of May, 1881. Meantime his sister Jennie had become the second wife of William F. Davis (commonly known as Bear Davis) and had preceded her brother to Wyoming by a couple of years together with the rest of the Davis family who were Sulvester, son of William F. and two daughters of William F. Davis, Mary Lydia and Lilla May (May Davis Howard)."

When my father Daniel T. Hilman arrived here in Wyoming,

he found his sister Jennie and the rest of the Davis family firmly entrenched upon a beautiful ranch at the head of the Little Goose Creek valley. This ranch was known as the D-X (D-Cross) for many years and joined the Goose Creek immediately on the east.

The land lying opposite the D-Cross and on the west side of the stream was vacant at the time so the natural thing to do was to file upon this beautiful piece of land and claim it as his own. That is exactly what he did and so the D-H or Hilman ranch came into being in 1881 and was destined in later years to become quite famous as the first Dude Ranch in Wyoming.

On February 14, 1883, my father Daniel T. Hilman was united in marriage with Mary Lydia Davis who afterward became my mother.

To this union were born three children, two sons and a daughter.

I, William Frederick, was born October 2, 1884 in a 16 by 22 log cabin on the old D-H cow ranch up at the head of the Little Goose Creek valley, Northern Wyoming (now Sheridan county). My first schooling was had at the little one room school house known as the Lone Star. Later, I attended Big Horn school until I had finished my second year in high. Then I attended Sheridan for two years and graduated in 1906. Later I finished my education by attending the University of Washington at Seattle for one year only.

The second son, Harold M. Hilman, was born January 4, 1894. Harold died in 1938.

Ruth Irene Hilman was born March 12, 1896. She was the only daughter of the original Wyoming Hilman family. She attended Big Horn school through the sophomore year and then finished in Sheridan. After that she was united in marriage with Irving H. Taylor and moved to New York City where she still resides. To the Taylor family was born one daughter, Irene Jr., who is now married and the mother of three fine sons.

My mother, Lydia Davis Hilman, was born at Clarinda, Iowa, November 8, 1862. She had lived in Iowa and Missouri until she was sixteen years old at which date, 1879, and after having lost her mother, the Davis family moved to Wyoming where they became the very first settlers as a family to take residence in the Goose Creek valley.

Mother often spoke of the trip to Wyoming as being the most exciting thing she ever experienced. Driving a four-mule team from Independence to Wyoming in those days was no small matter for any one and yet that fell to her lot for that is what she did. The little wagon train, thirteen wagons in all, arrived at

Goose Creek, Wyoming Territory on June 11, 1879. Goose Creek was full to its very banks and considerable trouble was had in crossing over the stream. After crossing, however, the wagon train moved up the river a short way to where Big Horn townsite is now situated and where the train corralled for the night. This is the spot where mother's father, Bear Davis, announced that he had reached the end of his journey. The following day the family moved up the river to the spring beside which my present home now stands. A few days later the family moved farther up stream to the site of the first water-powered saw mill and thus was begun the first industry, I believe, in what is now Sheridan County, Wyoming.

Since space does not permit in this article I shall only bring forth a few facts about the first dude ranch. Dude ranching in Wyoming became a reality in the summer of 1889 when father and mother Hilman first took and cared for two paying guests who came from Ames, Iowa. Their names were Mrs. Virginia Allen and Mrs. Linsey. Their husbands owned and operated vast ranches in the Sand Hills of Nebraska.

The following year, 1890, carpenter J. W. Austin started the first big Dude Ranch house for the folks. He finished it the following year, 1891. It was a two-story building with six bedrooms upstairs. There were four rooms downstairs with a wide veranda or porch that encased the east, the south and west sides of the house.

I have a picture taken in 1891 that shows the building and the guests on the front porch. The picture also shows the two-room cabin in the rear that housed the first guests before the large house was completed.

The first lettuce that I ever remember eating was gathered from a very small garden (first picking) in 1881 by a new small house near the water wheel sawmill. It was picked in my presence by May Davis while Aunt Jenny was cooking the noon meal in the house.—C.L.S.

The Gerdels, Parents of First Child

JUDITH DEWEY

Mrs. Louis Knodl was the first white child born in Sheridan and Johnson counties. She is still living at the age of 78. Mrs. Knodl's maiden name was Edith Gerdel. She outlived two husbands, Mr. Anton Solga and Mr. Oscar Nelson. Now she is married to Louis Knodl of Sheridan. She has lived in this section of Wyoming all of her life.

Mrs. Knodl's mother and father were from Germany. Her mother was born on February 18, 1845, in the village of Steinau, Province of Oberschleisen, in Germany. On January 1, 1870, she married Henry Gerdel, maker of women's fine shoes in Germany. They came to America in the same year, settling in Louisville, Kentucky, and in 1878 they went West in a wagon to Cheyenne. A year later, still unsettled, they traveled on north in an old horse-drawn army ambulance filled with Mr. Gerdel's fine-made shoes. With them they now had a young girl and a three-week-old son. Their wagon attracted many outlaws who believed that it contained valuable items. Six months later after a much-delayed journey, they arrived in Buffalo, the town growing up just down stream from Fort McKinney. They did not settle there, but went on and found a homestead near Big Horn City, 30 miles farther north on the Bozeman Trail.

Edith Gerdel was born in 1880 in their new homestead. This was strange country for all of them, but they had already made a few friends. Mr. Gerdel drove a wagon 10 miles round trip through a raging snowstorm to return with "Aunt Jenny" Davis, who brought Edith into the dark, cold world.

The living conditions with which Edith Gerdel grew up were very different from ours. One year, a prairie fire threatened to destroy the home of the Gerdels. Mrs. Gerdel, in a frenzy to save as much as she could, piled clothes, food and household articles into the wagon and pushed it down the hill into the creek. Luckily, the wind turned just in time to save the house from the fire, but it did burn the wagon and goods that were supposed to have been saved. This little incident is remembered as a joke today.

One day, Mr. Gerdel decided that they needed a plough. He traveled many miles and took many days to get it, but he found that it proved worthwhile. He loaned it to many neighbors who also had need of a plough, and the family received many various



THE GERDEL FAMILY—Herman, who was the blacksmith of Co. E of Torry's Rough Riders (deceased). Mrs. Henry Gerdel; Louise, Mrs. Toomey, Sacramento, California. Emma Newinger-Zumwaltz (deceased). Mr. Henry Gerdel, Isabelle Goodrich, Sacramento, California. Edith Nelson-Knodi, Sheridan, Wyoming. Edith Gerdel, the first child born in Johnson (Sheridan) County. (Courtesy Pearl White Potts.)

gifts in return. The Gerdel ditch is one of the valuable early water rights.

The Gerdels raised the first garden to be found in this territory. They grew all of the vegetables that they needed; they could always find plenty of wild game. The fish were so plentiful that Mrs. Gerdel could go out and catch the fish while the rest of the supper was cooking. Mrs. Gerdel got some chickens from Fort McKinney, and started her own flock.

When the children reached school age, they walked to school in Big Horn, which was two and one-half miles away. Being German, their experiences in school were quite different from others. They had to learn the English language before they could progress in other subjects. Though the teacher, Miss Whittington, was very patient with them, they had a hard time of it. Of course, the other children teased them, as children always will.

Mrs. Henry Gerdel helped attain friendly relations with the Indians. Being a very good cook, she invited them in and fed them whenever they visited. While some Indians were visiting one day, they watched three-year-old Edith hide behind her mother's skirts. Mrs. Gerdel, astounded, refused their offer to trade some of their best Indian ponies in return for blonde Edith. What an experience: to have Indians offer to buy your little girl for ponies!

During this period, weddings with large parties were common occurrences. With feasting and dancing, these parties sometimes lasted for several days. The fiddlers had almost trained themselves to sleep while they played.

When Edith was twelve, she recovered steadily from pneumonia. It seemed that their family could survive anything; their doctor was a veterinarian. This new life indeed was strange.

The Gerdels stayed on this ranch until 1900, when they sold the ranch and stock and moved to Sheridan. Mrs. Knodl has remained in Sheridan and surrounding vicinity ever since.

Mrs. Gerdel died on January 20, 1921, at the age of 75. Mr. Gerdel died on November 8, 1927, at the age of 78. Herman Gerdel, Edith's brother, died on September 26, 1954. The rest of her family are still living.

Mrs. Knodl is still going strong, as she is rapidly recovering from an operation a short time ago.

The Jackson Family

ANN HELVEY

Mr. William Edward Jackson was born in Indiana on March 7, 1843. He came to Big Horn on June 10, 1880. His wife, two daughters, and one son accompanied him here, and they first settled on what is now the Goelet Gallatin ranch, where they lived in a tent. Because of early storms in the mountains they were unable to get their house logs out. A friend told them of a cabin which was being left vacant by the James Brothers. This cabin was located on the bank of what is now Jackson Creek about two hundred yards from the present school. The following summer the logs were removed from the mountains, and Mr. Jackson built a two-room cabin across the creek. As they were the first family to live on the creek, it was named Jackson Creek.

Because Mr. Jackson had worked in a drug store and studied medicine, he was able to use his knowledge thus acquired to help his neighbors. Children suffering from croup, spasms, or other ailments of childhood were often eased by Mr. Jackson's treatment, and many a weary, anxious parent got a night's rest when he insisted that he be entrusted to "sit-up" as night nurse. One afternoon, when Mr. Jackson was irrigating on his southeast forty where Mr. and Mrs. Ben Shreve now live, he saw Mrs. Tom Mooney, who was cook for Mr. Wallop at the Hanna house, frantically waving a towel. He rode rapidly to her and saved the life of her small daughter whom she had found unconscious in the ditch under the fall of the water trough. A few years later when the aged widow postmistress, Mrs. J. T. Conley, had fallen from the footbridge at the rear of what is now Mr. R. D. Sackett's yard and those who had pulled her from the creek had given her up as dead, Mr. Jackson arrived in time to resuscitate her.

He also acted as an agent for the government in making treaties with the Indians. One Indian, Chief White Horse, moved his wife and daughter, who were named Pretty Beads and Pretty Shell, to a camp on a hill above the Jackson house so that his daughter could attend school with Mr. Jackson's children.

Frank Grouard, one of the noted Indian scouts and a very good friend of the Jacksons, married a squaw, whose name was Susie. Susie's disposition was not good. She often chased Mr. Grouard with knives. Mr. Grouard would run to the Jackson house, come in the front door, tell the Jacksons that Susie was after him,

and run out the back door. Susie would stand in the front yard waiting for Mr. Grouard to come out the front door because she had never seen a tepee with two doors. This was the way Frank Grouard escaped Susie's knives.

When it became evident that there were enough settlers for a town, Mr. Jackson gave land for the part of the west side of Big Horn including the land where the present Community Center is, the school house, and down to and including the land where the Community Church is located. Mr. Jackson associated with J. H. Sackett, C. W. Skinner, O. P. Hanna laid out the town of Big Horn with the assistance of Jack Dow as surveyor.

The bricks for the first brick school building, which was the Wyoming Collegiate Institute, and also the bricks for the Congregational Church and a few other buildings were burned along Jackson Creek ranch by Mr. Jackson and his son-in-law, L. E. Martin.

One fall the Indians had taken all the meal and flour from the settlers. At the time Frank Grouard was freighting for Fort McKinney, Mr. Jackson asked him if he could buy a bag of meal. Mr. Grouard could not sell it because it was government property, but he did say that he would lose a bag of meal at Rock Creek. Mr. Jackson went and got it. That bag of meal helped the settlers to get through the winter.

One time General Sheridan and General Crook were to meet their troops at what is now Big Horn. They arrived by ambulance, which in those days was used to transport troops. A grass fire had broken out between the Jackson house and Big Horn. The two generals leaped from the ambulance and fought the fire.

The Jacksons went by covered wagon to Cheyenne to get supplies. While they were there the Bradley family decided to come back to Big Horn with them. They made it to Brown Springs to camp the first night. Much to their surprise a war party of Indians were already camped there. Realizing that the Indians knew they were there, they pitched their camp regardless.

Shortly after that, the Indians started a war dance. Some Indian braves came to the camp and took Mr. Jackson and Mr. Bradley over to the fire. After what seemed a long time to the families, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Bradley returned to camp with the Indians. The Indians and the two men took the families back to the fire with them. They were all standing around the fire with the Indians dancing around them, when one Indian, painted completely white, stood behind Mrs. Jackson. Mr. Jackson cautioned her not to move or make a sound, since the Indian was testing her nerves. After a little while Mr. Bradley and Mr. Jackson were taken around to the other side of the fire and seated with the

chiefs and medicine men. The medicine man seated next to Mr. Jackson passed him the peace pipe. This medicine man was Sitting Bull. His tribe was on the warpath against the Piegiens and the Sioux and had stopped at Brown Springs to "make braves." While the Jacksons and the Bradleys were being held at the campfire the Indians took all of the flour, meal and bacon which the Jacksons had acquired in Cheyenne, but they were allowed to continue their journey home.

In 1892, Mr. Jackson was elected to the first board of County Commissioners of Johnson County. Mr. Jackson helped organize Sheridan County, and he also was on the first board of County Commissioners of Sheridan County. For a few months the Jackson family moved to Buffalo, where Mr. Jackson acted as deputy sheriff of Johnson County in 1891 under the sheriff Red Angus. In 1896, Mr. Jackson was elected to the Legislature. At the end of his term in the Legislature on May 16, 1897, he was appointed the first supervisor of the Big Horn National Forest. He established the first forest office in a house that was built by Dolph Thomas, where Mrs. Woodsmall now lives.

The children of W. E. Jackson and his wife, Amanda Davis Jackson, are Minnetta (Minnie), Esther (Mrs. L. E. Martin, 240 Coffeen Avenue, Sheridan), Charles Frank (1868-1933), and Edna (Mrs. Edna J. Carver, 1875-1954).

It may be interesting to know that Mr. Jackson's greatgrandson, now (1958) resides with his family on the original Jackson place in the home that Mr. Jackson built.

Mr. W. E. Jackson died in 1912. Mrs. W. E. Jackson died in 1932.

In reference to the cabin mentioned on page 14, I went to school in that house. It was the first school in what is now Sheridan County.

I saw Generals Sheridan and Crook and Gus Miles at the Sackett and Skinner Store on numerous occasions, and at their camps, too.

John Henry Sackett (Jack Sackett) provided 40 acres by relinquishment at adjoining Jackson 20 acres on the east of Jackson's.—C.L.S.

Other Pioneers On Jackson Creek

ANN HELVEY, LYNDA GARBER,
DAN BLANEY, JOHN ANDERSON

THE DARLINGTON FAMILY

The Darlington family, who had moved to Colorado from Tennessee, filed on land on the south side of Jackson Creek just upstream from Mr. W. E. Jackson's ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Darlington with sons Aaron and Joe followed the son, Nels, who came as Mr. J. H. Sackett's teamster. There was in Colorado a married daughter who came on visits. Some member of the family had proved-up on and had sold a claim on Cherry Creek along which Spear Boulevard now extends in the city of Denver.

In a long draw to the southwest of the Darlington land is a spring that like the draw was early mapped with the family name because they appropriated the spring water and ditched it to irrigate their land, beautify their yards and fill a pond where they raised ducks and geese. Darlington Draw flows into Hanna Creek in the yard of Mr. Kelly Howie. This junction of the two small streams gave the idea of "Island Ranch" that was used by a former owner.

Mr. Darlington was a gardener but was also interested in mining. Soon he joined the activity at Bald Mountain and died as a result of an injury there. (His tombstone in Big Horn Cemetery reads:

"Richard D. Darlington
1825-1891
2180 Sharpless Genealogy")

Nels married Minnie Stewart. They reared their family in Broadus, Montana. Joe spent most of his life away but visited at times and did return to die from cancer with his brother Aaron, who always remained with his mother.

Mrs. Henrietta Darlington was a Quakeress who spoke to her sons with "thee, thou, ye" and in like pronouns was addressed by them. Pioneer children enjoyed Mrs. Darlington's canary birds, parrot, and stories of her girlhood when Andrew Jackson was President. She lived over ninety years doing her own housework and sewing.

Aaron was a member of the Big Horn Odd Fellow and Rebecca Lodges. He lived out his life at the family home where Mr. and Mrs. Vern W. Needham now reside.

THE LAMBRIGGER FAMILY

On the north side of Jackson Creek upstream from W. E. Jackson's land were the claims of Gabriel, Alphonso, and Alfred Lambrigger, three brothers. Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Lambrigger were experienced gardeners. They settled by the spring that Mrs. Rose Olson and the Emil Benson family now utilize. They started apples, small fruits, etc., advertised with the letterhead as follows:

— Office of —
COLD SPRING SEED FARM
G. J. Lambrigger, Proprietor.
Big Horn City, Sheridan Co. Wyo.
.....188

and the return address of the envelope read:

C. J. Lambrigger
SEEDSMAN AND FLORIST
Big Horn City, Wyo.
Sheridan Co.
L. Box 62

When the strawberries were in season they employed girls to pick at 1 cent per quart. They drove by night to Buffalo to sell the berries at Fort McKinney.

A photograph of Mrs. Lambrigger and her three daughters is a study in the high buttoned shoes of the time as well as an illustration of the fact that housewives used gingham by the bolt to make the family garments—adding a crocheted lace and ribbon collar as a dress-up touch.

Upstream from Gabriel were his brother Alphonso and family. Their house was just below the curve of the Colorado ditch where it come out of Jackson Creek one-fourth of a mile west of the house in which Mr. and Mrs. Harry Olson now reside.

Upstream from Alphonso was the claim of his bachelor brother Alfred who won first prize for wheat at the World's Columbia Exposition in Chicago in 1893. A fourth brother, who had his claim to the north of Alfred was Leo Lambrigger near where Otto Kusel now lives.

Up Jackson Creek above Alfred Lambrigger was Henry Townsend who filed on the land where John and Frank Benton had once lived without filing and where now (Tip) J. W. Wilson, Junior's

The *Sentinel* was printed in a frame building just south of the old ranch where the youngest son Richard "Dick," was born in residence is. It was the Henry Townsend family who recorded the D-D brand that they sold to Mr. Wilson. Descendents who continue

to live in this locality are Mr. Ed Townsend and his wife, Benitta Dow, who celebrated their golden wedding in 1956 and Ruby Townsend Kusel, the widow of John Kusel. Their children and grandchildren attended Lone Star and Big Horn schools.

The Alfred Lambrigger's land was sold to Dan Blaney's great-grandfather, a native of Germany, Mr. William Kusel who homesteaded adjoining hill land to the south. He used the fertility of the Jackson Creek valley meadows, as did his son Fred in the next generation, to produce and prepare prize winning exhibits of grains and grasses that put Sheridan County in the lead at the Wyoming State Fair at Douglas.

Lambrigger brothers' Jackson Creek land west of the county road has had various owners during the past 60 years. Now Panetta Brothers own it.

The "Cold Spring Seed Farm" went out of business and was the cheese making site of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome T. Brown who moved from Johnson County to Big Horn so that their daughter Edna and their son Roy might attend the "college." The largest, oldest tree now growing in the southeast corner of the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Benson was a sapling when the Browns lived in a cabin on that site in 1895 and deeded it to Karstin H. and Mads. H. Mortenson from whom August Olson and wife bought it.

In reference to pages 29 and 30:

The school building on Cruse Creek in the Jim Reece house was built about 1889. I ate there when hunting.

This trapper building was poorly constructed of pine logs with bark on and not trimmed on the outside, corners and all on top of ground. One small window, one door, split-log benches smoothed with broad-axe on top and pins in bottom for legs. No desks, blackboard or teacher's desk—just small table. No similar books, just books as brought from various places in wagons. A few slates, no paper tablets. I had slate pencils and John Thompson asked to see them; when I handed the pencils to him, he promptly put them in his pocket and I hit him on the nose. He won. My brother Lee took him off. So I KNOW John, Anne and Tillie Thompson were there the first day of the first school.

See page 21 where it is mentioned the log school was built in 1883. In 1883 the lumber would have come from the mill of Sackett and Skinner.
—C.L.S.

Early Buildings, People and Events On Big Horn Townsite

JOYCE DEWEY, TOM BARD. NADINE SHAW,
PATSY MYERS and PHEBE DALY

The first building stood west of Norman Perry's lawn and faced south. It was built of lumber from "Bear" Davis' water power saw-mill by Sackett and Skinner. It had a board roof with cleats over the cracks running from ridge to eaves. They used it for their general merchandise store and Big Horn Post Office from early 1881 until they moved into the present store and post office. The outer east wall was the first billboard and soon was pasted with paper reading, "Beatty's Organ." That sign withstood the weather for many years and came to designate that building after it stood empty and used only occasionally for a place to serve a church dinner on election day.

When the big frame school house was used after 1884, the one-half block that is now Foster Bundy's yard was fenced. The north end across the street from "Beatty's Organ" had a high board fence to obstruct the view from the road where the boys' and girls' toilets were behind the building and divided by a high board fence. The rest of the fence was wire over which were plank stiles to the east and to the west from the entrance under the belfry. The end of the half block now occupied by the Bundy house was the playground from which no pupil was allowed to go without permission not even across the road to get a pail of drinking water from the ditch or, when that water looked dirty, to pump a pailful from the well (at Mrs. Coates' house) in the yard of Professor Spiegel, who was a retired band master from Fort McKinney, and played many musical instruments, of which the violin was his favorite.

Halcyone Goodrich (Mrs. Alva T. Morgereidge, Phoenix, Arizona) wrote, "In 1895 we lived right on Main Street in a house owned by a family named Burkhart. I had three lessons each week and Mr. Spiegel was a 'slave driver.' I practiced four hours every day including Sundays if I remember rightly. That was too much for a twelve-year-old, who liked to ride horseback and play croquet, etc.

"Mr. Spiegel lived in a neat little two-room house that faced ours about a block away. He had a housekeeper who came every day and kept his place immaculate. My lessons were from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. When I arrived my teacher was waiting for me, neat as a pin, but usually in a red silk brocade robe which set off his white hair and beard, if not his pudgy figure. On a few occasions he was 'indis-



BIG HORN STORE—March 1884. Left to right: Benefield, carpenter; J. W. Austin, W. E. Jackson, Charley Farwell, Jack Sackett and son, C. W. Skinner. (two unknown), O. P. Hanna, two older Wolfe boys with J. T. Wolfe. Probably Robert Hayes on horse. (Picture courtesy Skinner family.)

posed' with an ailment he never named but which rumor said was the result of too close association with the bottle. He must have had an income for I think I was his only pupil at that time, and he took me only at my father's urgent request. He thought I ought to practice eight hours daily as he had done in his youth."

On the southeast corner of the school house block was a five- or six-room log cabin with low walls and dirt roof. It was spoken of as the "Thompson house" and later on as the "Grandma Perry house." Probably the Thompsons built it while they were living on the Hanna ranch because they were occupying it and boarding people when Tom Adams, the first foreman of the PK ranch, was shot by Dan O'Brien, who came from a saloon that stood south of where the Odd Fellows hall now stands. The story goes that O'Brien ran over to the Jack Dow house asking Mrs. Dow to hold his gun and protect him until an officer could come. The shooting that was the result of drinking was not the outstanding feature, but rather the fact that this was the first legal hearing in what became Sheridan County and it was held in the community built log school house in Big Horn in March 1883. As boys listening in were Carl Sackett and Harry Burgess, who later became prominent judges. This may have given each of them their first desire to become an attorney. Mrs. Dow, in recounting her arrival, told that Mr. Dow brought logs from Upper Prairie Dog where he was surveyor for the Piney water that was being brought from the "big hill" for irrigation and built them a cabin (close to Curries) on Jackson Creek in Big Horn before he filed upon or improved the ranch.

Livery barns and blacksmith shops were essential in the stage coach era. Sheds and a shop at the Sackett ranch were used from the time of Sackett's arrival. The building we call the museum by the Woman's Club house was soon built for shoeing stage teams. There was an early barn south of Leroy Sackett that is said to have been built by J. A. Scrutchfield, who came here in 1883 helping Spears drive their livestock from western Montana. That barn had been enlarged when it burned the dawn of August 19, 1898, and was operated by Mr. Thayer, whose children attended Big Horn school and who amused the fire fighters by their eager efforts to save their Sunday School papers and cards. The Big Horn Fair book of 1886 list Mr. Scrutchfield as assistant supervisor of "Horses." "Walton" is mentioned as interested in a livery barn. Also in the fair book, Coates advertised both a "feed barn" and a "blacksmith shop." The feed barn that was remodeled into Mrs. Thelma Custis' home and bar was the property of Mr. William Eckerson in the 1890's when he bought it from Mr. J. F. Lewis.

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Lewis homesteaded the land Mr. Lovelace

now owns. Mrs. Lewis' mother, Mrs. Gardner, died at that ranch and is buried in the Lewis lot in the cemetery that Lewises deeded to the community. Later Mr. Lewis was superintendent of the county agricultural experiment station that was given to the Holly Sugar Company to induce them to come to Sheridan. In declining years the Lewises lived in the home where Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Sipe now reside. Mr. Lewis was a Civil War veteran and took pride in teaching the youth loyalty to the flag and patriotic duty in decorating the graves of soldiers on May 30.

In the 1880's Mr. Gidley, who raised stage horses on his Johnson County ranch, was a manager of the stage line and had in his employment a nephew, Harry Cochran, who was drowned in Sackett's pond. Larison, who became a rancher on Prairie Dog near Banner, was another stage driver through Big Horn.

Thomas Tynan was a bookkeeper in Sackett and Skinner's store. He was trained in boxing and together with Robert Long, a Canadian, who also loved the sport, they put on demonstrations and interested Lee Sackett and other boys his age. Tynan also was adept at mental arithmetic and passed on to boys his skill in figures and also methods of bookkeeping. Mr. Tynan married Miss Vinnie Bean of Beckton. He was elected as State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Tom Green was another bookkeeper. He is thought to have built the "Eckerson house."

The DeLeon family had a girl who was in school in 1884. The father had a barber shop in the frame building next to the Fire Station and he also gave dancing lessons.

A family named Snyder lived in 1884 on the west end of Brown Sinsel's yard. He raised sugar cane on the back of that block and also in Sackett's field south of the townsite. The West Side ditch was new and supplied the irrigation water. Mr. Snyder ran a sorghum mill that fall.

The Big Horn Sentinel published its first issue September 13, 1884. The editor was Harry E. Becker who came from Miles City at the request of the trustees of the town headed by W. E. Jackson. One account says "The trustees raised \$500 to get a printing press and start a paper to try to boast Big Horn and surrounding country." Two printers, Low Knight and Fay Summers, who had known Becker in Miles City came and helped with the printing while Becker traveled soliciting advertising. In about two years the paper had paid for itself, but as Buffalo was growing much more rapidly, Becker, who now owned it all, moved over there. Later he moved to Billings and edited the *Gazette* for a long time. The Sentinel was printed in a frame building just south of the old hotel yard. The back room of Sinsel's shop may be part of the

original structure. Various shops have been there during the intervening years.

O. P. Hanna built the hotel after his sister, Laura, came in the fall of 1882. He recorded that she helped him start its operation. Becker and his helpers boarded there as did men who worked at the saw mill. The patronage for noon meals was also good from the stage drivers and passengers.

Miss Hanna married William Burgess on June 1, 1884 at the Hanna ranch. That same day by G. C. Roak also were married at the "Restaurant" (the table at the hotel was so called) Isabelle Bowman and Delos Babcock to whom Hanna records that he sold one-half interest in the hotel and the stock of store goods they had after they built the rear addition. Business was so good that Hanna went to Illinois visiting in the early winter of 1884 and met Miss Dora Myers to whom he became engaged. Hanna reports that Babcock gambled and lost everything so that he had to go back to ranching on Shell creek, and that upon his return Hanna got Mrs. Barton to take over the hotel for 1885, when Mrs. Hanna came as a bride. In the Fair Book of 1886 George C. Snyder had an ad as "new proprietor for the hotel." He evidently had it during the summer and till after the fair.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Warren Bard moved into the hotel the autumn of 1886. Mr. Bard had already been in Wyoming ten years. Charles W. Bard was born in Whiteville, New Jersey. After his father had been killed in the Civil War, his mother, whose maiden name was Vreeland, had with her baby boy gone to her people at Mankato, Minnesota, where she died. In young manhood Charles W. Bard went westward and in 1876 was north of Cheyenne working as a buffalo hunter and later as a roundup cook. He became associated with James Goodrich and began to exchange letters with his sister Minerva Emily Goodrich whom Bard married in 1878 at Fort Dodge, Iowa. Charles Bard filed on land on Little Bear creek fifty miles north of Cheyenne and stayed there with his wife four years during which the son Floyd C. Bard was born in 1879 and Charles A. (Tode) Bard in 1881. For the latter birth Mrs. Bard went back to her people in Iowa. The family of four came with two covered wagons to Johnson County and settled on Meade creek where they lived in a dugout during the winter of 1882-1883. In the fall of 1885 they moved over to Big Horn where the boys attended school while the family lived in the now Norman Perry house. There in April, 1886 the daughter Florence Gertrude "Dot" (Mrs. Thurman Godfrey, Lusk, Wyoming) was born. After two years at the hotel, Bards moved back to their Meade creek ranch where the youngest son Richard, "Dick," was born in

1892. About the time Bards moved from the now Norman Perry house, Mr. Andy Eads had a harness shop there.

Mr. Henry A. Coffeen looked this valley over and then brought his family about 1885. He built a sturdy frame building over a full basement. There was an upstairs where the family lived. He advertised in the Fair Book to sell for cash his merchandise at his general store. He was here until he felt sure Big Horn was losing in the race for the county seat of Sheridan County. Then he moved to Sheridan, building and all. The vacated basement excavation was fenced to prevent accidents. It was on the east side of the street facing the present fire station. The youngest child, Mabel, celebrated her tenth birthday March 1, 1887. She became Mrs. John V. Telander, 184 South Brooks. Sheridan, where her widower lives. Herbert A., who had charge of curios and relics at the Fair, became proprietor of the "Teepee" store and publisher of the **Teepee** Book in Sheridan. Miss Hallie became Mrs. Edward Gillette. Mr. Henry A. Coffeen was Sheridan County's delegate to the Constitutional convention preparatory to Statehood in 1890 and was Wyoming's second elected Representative to Congress. Thereafter he served on the board of trustees of the University of Wyoming.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Jefferson Woodley came to Big Horn in 1883 and built a frame house with an "upstairs" on the block near the present Lee Garrett residence. They lived there six years before moving to Herb's creek between the Pass creek and the Little Horn canyons. Mrs. Woodley died in 1899 at the home of a brother in Worthing, South Dakota. A son Edward Clifford Woodley attended school in Big Horn from 1884 to 1889 and had several lifetime friends among his Big Horn schoolmates. He is now a widower living in retirement in Sheridan. The Woodley house burned about 1919.

Soon after Woodleys moved from their Big Horn home, it was occupied by a family named Platt. They had a daughter who went to school to Mrs. Paxton and to Miss Whittington as did Jesse and Ada Teller, whose parents lived in the vacated **Sentinel** office. Dottie Stock's parents moved into the house Snyders had lived in on the corner where Brown Sinsel's apple trees are now. Mr. Stocks or someone else living there made tombstones of native marble-looking stone that did not hold the inscriptions carved on it.

About 1894 Mr. and Mrs. Burkhart bought this old house and the adjoining lots just north. They built the building that is the Odd Fellows hall for a grocery store and lived in the upstairs over it. They were not here long before they sold to the Lodge and moved to a farm up Big Goose from Sheridan.

Other Pioneers On Jackson Creek

ANN HELVEY, LYNDA GARBER,
DAN BLANEY, JOHN ANDERSON

THE DARLINGTON FAMILY

The Darlington family, who had moved to Colorado from Tennessee, filed on land on the south side of Jackson Creek just upstream from Mr. W. E. Jackson's ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Darlington with sons Aaron and Joe followed the son, Nels, who came as Mr. J. H. Sackett's teamster. There was in Colorado a married daughter who came on visits. Some member of the family had proved-up on and had sold a claim on Cherry Creek along which Spear Boulevard now extends in the city of Denver.

In a long draw to the southwest of the Darlington land is a spring that like the draw was early mapped with the family name because they appropriated the spring water and ditched it to irrigate their land, beautify their yards and fill a pond where they raised ducks and geese. Darlington Draw flows into Hanna Creek in the yard of Mr. Kelly Howie. This junction of the two small streams gave the idea of "Island Ranch" that was used by a former owner.

Mr. Darlington was a gardener but was also interested in mining. Soon he joined the activity at Bald Mountain and died as a result of an injury there. (His tombstone in Big Horn Cemetery reads:

"Richard D. Darlington
1825-1891
2180 Sharpless Genealogy")

Nels married Minnie Stewart. They reared their family in Broadus, Montana. Joe spent most of his life away but visited at times and did return to die from cancer with his brother Aaron, who always remained with his mother.

Mrs. Henrietta Darlington was a Quakeress who spoke to her sons with "thee, thou, ye" and in like pronouns was addressed by them. Pioneer children enjoyed Mrs. Darlington's canary birds, parrot, and stories of her girlhood when Andrew Jackson was President. She lived over ninety years doing her own housework and sewing.

Aaron was a member of the Big Horn Odd Fellow and Rebecca Lodges. He lived out his life at the family home where Mr. and Mrs. Vern W. Needham now reside.

THE LAMBRIGGER FAMILY

On the north side of Jackson Creek upstream from W. E. Jackson's land were the claims of Gabriel, Alphonso, and Alfred Lambrigger, three brothers. Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Lambrigger were experienced gardeners. They settled by the spring that Mrs. Rose Olson and the Emil Benson family now utilize. They started apples, small fruits, etc., advertised with the letterhead as follows:

— Office of —
COLD SPRING SEED FARM
G. J. Lambrigger, Proprietor.
Big Horn City, Sheridan Co. Wyo.
-----188

and the return address of the envelope read:

C. J. Lambrigger
SEEDSMAN AND FLORIST
Big Horn City, Wyo.
Sheridan Co.
L. Box 62

When the strawberries were in season they employed girls to pick at 1 cent per quart. They drove by night to Buffalo to sell the berries at Fort McKinney.

A photograph of Mrs. Lambrigger and her three daughters is a study in the high buttoned shoes of the time as well as an illustration of the fact that housewives used gingham by the bolt to make the family garments—adding a crocheted lace and ribbon collar as a dress-up touch.

Upstream from Gabriel were his brother Alphonso and family. Their house was just below the curve of the Colorado ditch where it come out of Jackson Creek one-fourth of a mile west of the house in which Mr. and Mrs. Harry Olson now reside.

Upstream from Alphonso was the claim of his bachelor brother Alfred who won first prize for wheat at the World's Columbia Exposition in Chicago in 1893. A fourth brother, who had his claim to the north of Alfred was Leo Lambrigger near where Otto Kusel now lives.

Up Jackson Creek above Alfred Lambrigger was Henry Townsend who filed on the land where John and Frank Benton had once lived without filing and where now (Tip) J. W. Wilson, Junior's

The *Sentinel* was printed in a frame building just south of the old ranch where the youngest son Richard "Dick," was born in residence is. It was the Henry Townsend family who recorded the D-D brand that they sold to Mr. Wilson. Descendents who continue

to live in this locality are Mr. Ed Townsend and his wife, Benitta Dow, who celebrated their golden wedding in 1956 and Ruby Townsend Kusel, the widow of John Kusel. Their children and grandchildren attended Lone Star and Big Horn schools.

The Alfred Lambrigger's land was sold to Dan Blaney's great-grandfather, a native of Germany, Mr. William Kusel who homesteaded adjoining hill land to the south. He used the fertility of the Jackson Creek valley meadows, as did his son Fred in the next generation, to produce and prepare prize winning exhibits of grains and grasses that put Sheridan County in the lead at the Wyoming State Fair at Douglas.

Lambrigger brothers' Jackson Creek land west of the county road has had various owners during the past 60 years. Now Panetta Brothers own it.

The "Cold Spring Seed Farm" went out of business and was the cheese making site of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome T. Brown who moved from Johnson County to Big Horn so that their daughter Edna and their son Roy might attend the "college." The largest, oldest tree now growing in the southeast corner of the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Benson was a sapling when the Browns lived in a cabin on that site in 1895 and deeded it to Karstin H. and Mads. H. Mortenson from whom August Olson and wife bought it.

In reference to pages 29 and 30:

The school building on Cruse Creek in the Jim Reece house was built about 1889. I ate there when hunting.

This trapper building was poorly constructed of pine logs with bark on and not trimmed on the outside, corners and all on top of ground. One small window, one door, split-log benches smoothed with broad-axe on top and pins in bottom for legs. No desks, blackboard or teacher's desk—just small table. No similar books, just books as brought from various places in wagons. A few slates, no paper tablets. I had slate pencils and John Thompson asked to see them; when I handed the pencils to him, he promptly put them in his pocket and I hit him on the nose. He won. My brother Lee took him off. So I KNOW John, Anne and Tillie Thompson were there the first day of the first school.

See page 21 where it is mentioned the log school was built in 1883. In 1883 the lumber would have come from the mill of Sackett and Skinner.
—C.L.S.

Early Buildings, People and Events On Big Horn Townsite

JOYCE DEWEY, TOM BARD, NADINE SHAW,
PATSY MYERS and PHEBE DALY

The first building stood west of Norman Perry's lawn and faced south. It was built of lumber from "Bear" Davis' water power saw-mill by Sackett and Skinner. It had a board roof with cleats over the cracks running from ridge to eaves. They used it for their general merchandise store and Big Horn Post Office from early 1881 until they moved into the present store and post office. The outer east wall was the first billboard and soon was pasted with paper reading, "Beatty's Organ." That sign withstood the weather for many years and came to designate that building after it stood empty and used only occasionally for a place to serve a church dinner on election day.

When the big frame school house was used after 1884, the one-half block that is now Foster Bundy's yard was fenced. The north end across the street from "Beatty's Organ" had a high board fence to obstruct the view from the road where the boys' and girls' toilets were behind the building and divided by a high board fence. The rest of the fence was wire over which were plank stiles to the east and to the west from the entrance under the belfry. The end of the half block now occupied by the Bundy house was the playground from which no pupil was allowed to go without permission not even across the road to get a pail of drinking water from the ditch or, when that water looked dirty, to pump a pailful from the well (at Mrs. Coates' house) in the yard of Professor Spiegel, who was a retired band master from Fort McKinney, and played many musical instruments, of which the violin was his favorite.

Halcyone Goodrich (Mrs. Alva T. Morgereidge, Phoenix, Arizona) wrote, "In 1895 we lived right on Main Street in a house owned by a family named Burkhart. I had three lessons each week and Mr. Spiegel was a 'slave driver.' I practiced four hours every day including Sundays if I remember rightly. That was too much for a twelve-year-old, who liked to ride horseback and play croquet, etc.

"Mr. Spiegel lived in a neat little two-room house that faced ours about a block away. He had a housekeeper who came every day and kept his place immaculate. My lessons were from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. When I arrived my teacher was waiting for me, neat as a pin, but usually in a red silk brocade robe which set off his white hair and beard, if not his pudgy figure. On a few occasions he was 'indis-



BIG HORN STORE—March 1884. Left to right: Benefield, carpenter; J. W. Austin, W. E. Jackson, Charley Farwell, Jack Sackett and son, C. W. Skinner. (two unknown), O. P. Hanna, two older Wolfe boys with J. T. Wolfe. Probably Robert Hayes on horse. (Picture courtesy Skinner family.)

posed' with an ailment he never named but which rumor said was the result of too close association with the bottle. He must have had an income for I think I was his only pupil at that time, and he took me only at my father's urgent request. He thought I ought to practice eight hours daily as he had done in his youth."

On the southeast corner of the school house block was a five- or six-room log cabin with low walls and dirt roof. It was spoken of as the "Thompson house" and later on as the "Grandma Perry house." Probably the Thompsons built it while they were living on the Hanna ranch because they were occupying it and boarding people when Tom Adams, the first foreman of the PK ranch, was shot by Dan O'Brien, who came from a saloon that stood south of where the Odd Fellows hall now stands. The story goes that O'Brien ran over to the Jack Dow house asking Mrs. Dow to hold his gun and protect him until an officer could come. The shooting that was the result of drinking was not the outstanding feature, but rather the fact that this was the first legal hearing in what became Sheridan County and it was held in the community built log school house in Big Horn in March 1883. As boys listening in were Carl Sackett and Harry Burgess, who later became prominent judges. This may have given each of them their first desire to become an attorney. Mrs. Dow, in recounting her arrival, told that Mr. Dow brought logs from Upper Prairie Dog where he was surveyor for the Piney water that was being brought from the "big hill" for irrigation and built them a cabin (close to Curries) on Jackson Creek in Big Horn before he filed upon or improved the ranch.

Livery barns and blacksmith shops were essential in the stage coach era. Sheds and a shop at the Sackett ranch were used from the time of Sackett's arrival. The building we call the museum by the Woman's Club house was soon built for shoeing stage teams. There was an early barn south of Leroy Sackett that is said to have been built by J. A. Scrutchfield, who came here in 1883 helping Spears drive their livestock from western Montana. That barn had been enlarged when it burned the dawn of August 19, 1898, and was operated by Mr. Thayer, whose children attended Big Horn school and who amused the fire fighters by their eager efforts to save their Sunday School papers and cards. The Big Horn Fair book of 1886 list Mr. Scrutchfield as assistant supervisor of "Horses." "Walton" is mentioned as interested in a livery barn. Also in the fair book, Coates advertised both a "feed barn" and a "blacksmith shop." The feed barn that was remodeled into Mrs. Thelma Custis' home and bar was the property of Mr. William Eckerson in the 1890's when he bought it from Mr. J. F. Lewis.

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Lewis homesteaded the land Mr. Lovelace

now owns. Mrs. Lewis' mother, Mrs. Gardner, died at that ranch and is buried in the Lewis lot in the cemetery that Lewises deeded to the community. Later Mr. Lewis was superintendent of the county agricultural experiment station that was given to the Holly Sugar Company to induce them to come to Sheridan. In declining years the Lewises lived in the home where Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Sipe now reside. Mr. Lewis was a Civil War veteran and took pride in teaching the youth loyalty to the flag and patriotic duty in decorating the graves of soldiers on May 30.

In the 1880's Mr. Gidley, who raised stage horses on his Johnson County ranch, was a manager of the stage line and had in his employment a nephew, Harry Cochran, who was drowned in Sackett's pond. Larison, who became a rancher on Prairie Dog near Banner, was another stage driver through Big Horn.

Thomas Tynan was a bookkeeper in Sackett and Skinner's store. He was trained in boxing and together with Robert Long, a Canadian, who also loved the sport, they put on demonstrations and interested Lee Sackett and other boys his age. Tynan also was adept at mental arithmetic and passed on to boys his skill in figures and also methods of bookkeeping. Mr. Tynan married Miss Vinnie Bean of Beckton. He was elected as State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Tom Green was another bookkeeper. He is thought to have built the "Eckerson house."

The DeLeon family had a girl who was in school in 1884. The father had a barber shop in the frame building next to the Fire Station and he also gave dancing lessons.

A family named Snyder lived in 1884 on the west end of Brown Sinsel's yard. He raised sugar cane on the back of that block and also in Sackett's field south of the townsite. The West Side ditch was new and supplied the irrigation water. Mr. Snyder ran a sorghum mill that fall.

The Big Horn Sentinel published its first issue September 13, 1884. The editor was Harry E. Becker who came from Miles City at the request of the trustees of the town headed by W. E. Jackson. One account says "The trustees raised \$500 to get a printing press and start a paper to try to boast Big Horn and surrounding country." Two printers, Low Knight and Fay Summers, who had known Becker in Miles City came and helped with the printing while Becker traveled soliciting advertising. In about two years the paper had paid for itself, but as Buffalo was growing much more rapidly, Becker, who now owned it all, moved over there. Later he moved to Billings and edited the *Gazette* for a long time. The Sentinel was printed in a frame building just south of the old hotel yard. The back room of Sinsel's shop may be part of the

original structure. Various shops have been there during the intervening years.

O. P. Hanna built the hotel after his sister, Laura, came in the fall of 1882. He recorded that she helped him start its operation. Becker and his helpers boarded there as did men who worked at the saw mill. The patronage for noon meals was also good from the stage drivers and passengers.

Miss Hanna married William Burgess on June 1, 1884 at the Hanna ranch. That same day by G. C. Roak also were married at the "Restaurant" (the table at the hotel was so called) Isabelle Bowman and Delos Babcock to whom Hanna records that he sold one-half interest in the hotel and the stock of store goods they had after they built the rear addition. Business was so good that Hanna went to Illinois visiting in the early winter of 1884 and met Miss Dora Myers to whom he became engaged. Hanna reports that Babcock gambled and lost everything so that he had to go back to ranching on Shell creek, and that upon his return Hanna got Mrs. Barton to take over the hotel for 1885, when Mrs. Hanna came as a bride. In the Fair Book of 1886 George C. Snyder had an ad as "new proprietor for the hotel." He evidently had it during the summer and till after the fair.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Warren Bard moved into the hotel the autumn of 1886. Mr. Bard had already been in Wyoming ten years. Charles W. Bard was born in Whiteville, New Jersey. After his father had been killed in the Civil War, his mother, whose maiden name was Vreeland, had with her baby boy gone to her people at Mankato, Minnesota, where she died. In young manhood Charles W. Bard went westward and in 1876 was north of Cheyenne working as a buffalo hunter and later as a roundup cook. He became associated with James Goodrich and began to exchange letters with his sister Minerva Emily Goodrich whom Bard married in 1878 at Fort Dodge, Iowa. Charles Bard filed on land on Little Bear creek fifty miles north of Cheyenne and stayed there with his wife four years during which the son Floyd C. Bard was born in 1879 and Charles A. (Tode) Bard in 1881. For the latter birth Mrs. Bard went back to her people in Iowa. The family of four came with two covered wagons to Johnson County and settled on Meade creek where they lived in a dugout during the winter of 1882-1883. In the fall of 1885 they moved over to Big Horn where the boys attended school while the family lived in the now Norman Perry house. There in April, 1886 the daughter Florence Gertrude "Dot" (Mrs. Thurman Godfrey, Lusk, Wyoming) was born. After two years at the hotel, Bards moved back to their Meade creek ranch where the youngest son Richard, "Dick," was born in

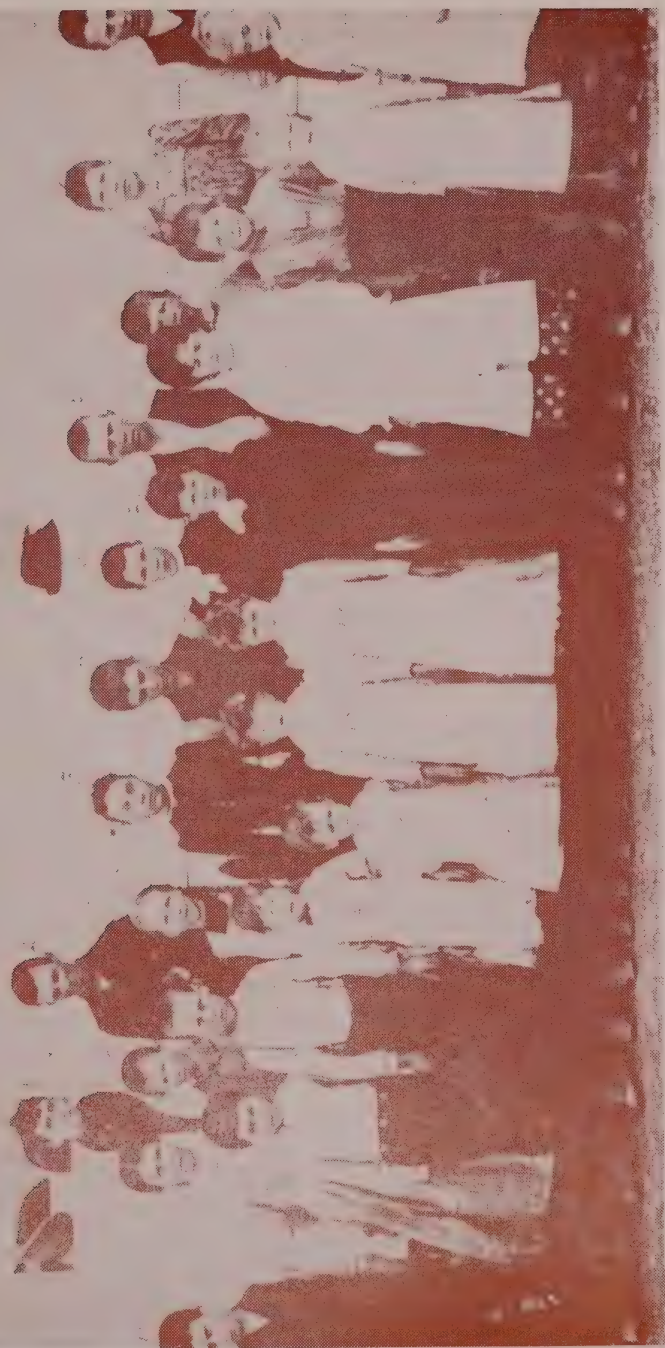
1892. About the time Bards moved from the now Norman Perry house, Mr. Andy Eads had a harness shop there.

Mr. Henry A. Coffeen looked this valley over and then brought his family about 1885. He built a sturdy frame building over a full basement. There was an upstairs where the family lived. He advertised in the Fair Book to sell for cash his merchandise at his general store. He was here until he felt sure Big Horn was losing in the race for the county seat of Sheridan County. Then he moved to Sheridan, building and all. The vacated basement excavation was fenced to prevent accidents. It was on the east side of the street facing the present fire station. The youngest child, Mabel, celebrated her tenth birthday March 1, 1887. She became Mrs. John V. Telander, 184 South Brooks. Sheridan, where her widower lives. Herbert A., who had charge of curios and relics at the Fair, became proprietor of the "Teepee" store and publisher of the **Teepee** Book in Sheridan. Miss Hallie became Mrs. Edward Gillette. Mr. Henry A. Coffeen was Sheridan County's delegate to the Constitutional convention preparatory to Statehood in 1890 and was Wyoming's second elected Representative to Congress. Thereafter he served on the board of trustees of the University of Wyoming.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Jefferson Woodley came to Big Horn in 1883 and built a frame house with an "upstairs" on the block near the present Lee Garrett residence. They lived there six years before moving to Herb's creek between the Pass creek and the Little Horn canyons. Mrs. Woodley died in 1899 at the home of a brother in Worthing, South Dakota. A son Edward Clifford Woodley attended school in Big Horn from 1884 to 1889 and had several lifetime friends among his Big Horn schoolmates. He is now a widower living in retirement in Sheridan. The Woodley house burned about 1919.

Soon after Woodleys moved from their Big Horn home, it was occupied by a family named Platt. They had a daughter who went to school to Mrs. Paxton and to Miss Whittington as did Jesse and Ada Teller, whose parents lived in the vacated **Sentinel** office. Dottie Stock's parents moved into the house Snyders had lived in on the corner where Brown Sinsel's apple trees are now. Mr. Stocks or someone else living there made tombstones of native marble-looking stone that did not hold the inscriptions carved on it.

About 1894 Mr. and Mrs. Burkhart bought this old house and the adjoining lots just north. They built the building that is the Odd Fellows hall for a grocery store and lived in the upstairs over it. They were not here long before they sold to the Lodge and moved to a farm up Big Goose from Sheridan.



LONE STAR SCHOOL, 1891—1. Stella Balager; 2. Guy Wood; 3. Ada Teller; 4. Ray Wood; 5. Helen McCulla; 7. Ed Stewart; 8. Minnie Enos; 9. Harry Wood; 10. Frank Wood; 11. Hattie Hurlbut; 12. Joey Hurlbut; 13. Madge Austin; 14. Clyde Wood; 15. Jesse Teller; 16. unidentified; 17. Carl Wood; 18. Myrtie Eads; 19. Nellie Eads; 20. Stella McCulla; 21. Minnie Stewart; 22. Walter Enos; 23. Nellie Long; 24. Winnie Long. (Photo courtesy Hilman family.)

Indians often camped near town and some races were held with them and others between cowboys' ponies. Less frequently owners of good race horses had sessions of racing other than those at the county fairs.

During the 1890's a creamery company was organized with shareholders from valleys some distance away. People hauled their milk in large cans and were paid the value of the cream it contained. The testing of butter fat content was a chemical wonder no less than the sight of a wizard machine grinding cream from one spout and from another the skim milk that the farmer was allowed to take home for his hogs.

There was a large churn run also by steam power and the most of a thriller was the steam whistle that blew off at certain hours. Near the east corner of the building on the south side protruded a platform upon which the cans of milk were lifted from the wagons. Years later when the building stood unused a small boy was heard explaining to another how this wagon box-high platform was the "butter table." No record is at hand as to who set up the operation of the creamery from which building has evolved the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Vandenberg, but it is known that Mr. Frank Boyd was running it in the 90's and was living in the "Tom Green" house that we know as the Eckerson home. Willie and Francis Boyd went to school from that house. Mrs. Boyd was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Cover.

Several recall the winter that the first dance was held in the new hall over the store. The weather had been mild until that night when a snow storm piled drifts too deep to risk homeward trips for those who had come long distances. They kept the dance going for three successive nights. Mr. Chris Hepp, Mrs. Emil Benson's father from Kearny, told her that he was playing an accordion those three nights. Mrs. Hanna mentioned that he and others living near opened their homes to take care of the crowd. Dances were enjoyed for receptions and for goodbye parties, too. Most were orderly and refined; the few that were otherwise no one wishes to recount. Families took their children and, when the smaller ones went to sleep, put them on the cloakroom floor on folded overcoats or lap robes. There were no coat hangers. Some cloaks were folded on a shelf. There was a raised platform for the musicians in the hall. The joyous annual occasion at the hall was the Christmas tree and school program. In the early years parents put presents for their children on the huge tree until the mass of unwrapped gifts provided the trimming. It was a sight indeed for little eyes and it was a breath-taking moment when the reindeer were heard on the roof and sleigh bells preceded Santa's entrance.

Several houses, other than the Sackett (Sinsel) building, were used as saloons. There were three running at one time. Also there were three stores at once for a little while. There was a log building between the big saloon and the small frame one that stands south of the fire station. That log structure sometimes was a residence for brief periods after it had been the saloon of Mr. Bagley who married Florence Reece. When Mr. Bagley moved out, Mr. Lester Bentley used it for his blacksmith shop for a while before moving to the **Sentinel** office building where Mr. Shoup and his sister, who became the second Mrs. Charles Farwell, had lived briefly. The log building afterward was once an ice house. Logs were best for insulating the sawdust packed about the ice. The Bentley family lived in the John Skinner house (Mrs. Ruby Kusel's). There were in school four of their children, Elton, Vella, Floyd and Gladys. Mr. Bentley was a hard working member on the school board. A very popular visitor in Big Horn was Mrs. Bentley's sister, Miss Minnie Bopes, who also visited with the Dr. Jackson family, having been a former friend of Mrs. Charles Jackson.

Dr. Charles Jackson, a brother of W. E. Jackson, came about 1895 and built for his residence the house now associated with Fred Schneider. Dr. Jackson had his office and drug store in the little frame building south of the present fire station. He was here about two years and sold the drug business to Mr. DeClark. Mr. and Mrs. DeClark buried a five-month old child Elva Ruth in 1897. A block east of the drug store was the frame "Greub" house where lived Mr. Ferdig, who it is recalled once carried mail over the mountains. A block south and nearer the creek bank was a long low building occupied for a few years by the Covington family. Their children were keen pupils. The older brother Byron worked out. Ivan, Homer, Lena and Roy completed the eighth grade while attending school in Big Horn. The younger children were Warren (deceased); Alvin, who visited Big Horn recently; Florence, Nora and Georgie.

The house Mrs. Woodsmall now owns was built in the 1890's by Dolph Thomas and his widowed mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Thomas, who was a sister of Mrs. W. E. Jackson and Mr. W. F. "Bear" Davis. Mrs. Thomas' other sons, Albert, Joe, Elsworth and Matthew were around Big Horn several years working for relatives and others before they became heads of their own families elsewhere. Their sister Zona Thomas married A. J. "Andy" Martin.

Charles Frank Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jackson, proved the land where Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bales reside. Frank sold that land to Mr. Jack Cato who lived there as a bachelor many years before his marriage. Mr. Cato with Lew Burgess bought a

string of fine horses which Bob Long broke and trained for sale before Mr. Cato changed to cattle, which he ran on the Big Horn Forest. Frank Jackson married Miss Ella Hayes, sister of Mrs. C. W. Skinner. Their children are Pauline Amanra (Mrs. J. C. Orcutt, Lincoln, Nebraska); William Edward (deceased); Charles; Jay (named for Colonel Jay L. Torrey) died 1957; and Mary Madeline (Mrs. Chancy Krotter-Schroeder, Palisade, Nebraska). During their years in Big Horn, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jackson built various houses. One was west of "Doc" Avery. It was two log rooms. The Reverend C. D. Day and family once lived in it. Next they built the "Doc" Avery frame house and sold it to Makinley Wood. They built from logs the remodeled house that Butler's own. Jackson sold that to DeClark, the druggist, who sold out to the Conley family soon after 1900. Frank Jackson then moved logs from the Hanna cabin to construct a log house where John M. Mills is now and it was he who bought and moved the big frame school house to that location. His later years were spent in Nebraska where he became commandant of the Sailors' and Soldiers' Home at Milford and died there and was interred in the Masonic cemetery at Lincoln, Nebraska, with military honors as a colonel.

Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Cover had two sons with growing families in Big Horn. The Marion Cover family lived in the house that now belongs to Jim Avery. Their school children were Clyde (deceased); Jessie (Mrs. Arnold Duhig), who with her husband edited the Thermopolis paper for many years; Molly (Mrs. Molly Cover Martin); Minnie (Mrs. Minnie Cover Morton); and Ralph. The Hank Cover family lived on the street in the small frame building just before it became a drug store. Their daughter Ollie was the first school child to have a broken leg, which she sustained from a fall from a wagon. Her brothers were Harry (deceased) and Bert. The family soon moved to Thermopolis.

Mr. Marion Cover urged the Bert Williams family, who had moved from Montana to the Big Horn Basin, to not file on land there but to come to Big Horn which they did by driving from Shell over the newly constructed road. For some weeks they camped in tents in Mr. Cover's yard until Mr. Williams purchased from Henry Van Duzen, a carpenter, the small house just north of which the brick church was soon built. After a few years, Mr. Williams bought the William Skinner house south of the little house. The Williams girls all attended Big Horn school. They are Mae (Mrs. Mae Mann, Gillette); Blanch (Mrs. Claude Byler, Sheridan); Orta (Mrs. Orta Force, Gillette); and Rose (Mrs. Rose Gustasson), who was born here. Later the parents were in stock business near Gillette where Mr. Williams died in 1936. Mrs.

Williams spent her last years with her daughter Mrs. Byler at Buffalo and died in 1941. Mrs. Bert William's mother, Mrs. Catherine Bray, came to Big Horn in 1896. She purchased a log house that had an upstairs with outside stairway on the south end. It stood where the Womans' Club House is now. Mr. Williams built for Mrs. Bray a lean-to kitchen on the east. Mrs. Bray was loved as a nurse and a child tender. She died in 1926.

The first billboard was painted in white on black background on board, not on paper.

The fence around the first frame school house was not of wire, but of boards with top slanting. Lee Sackett would put one hand on top and jump over, I put a foot on the boards and climbed over. I was never restrained from leaving the school grounds without permission.

Mr. Spiegel was a noted cornet soloist and band leader. As he got older, he took up the violin. He had a Stradivarius which he gave to Fred Becker of Sheridan.

The Sackett and Skinner Store was built by J. W. Austin for them.

I think it likely the first school was built before 1883, as school was held but a short time in the Trapper's cabin before moving to the new log school house.

I was going up Red Grade from the first new bridge when Gus Thompson, his face white with terror, came running and said, "They are shooting right through my house." We went up and looked over and saw Tom Adams running and Dan O'Brien shooting at him. Mrs. Dow told him to give her his gun.

The Perry house was Thompson's house after Thompsons moved about 1888 or later.

The reference to a family by the name of "Platt" on page 24 was actually Pratt who sold a two-year-old Clydesdale stallion to Sackett which he brought from Iowa. Sacketts kept it and a black Percheron stallion and a registered French Coach stallion at their 60-foot barn.

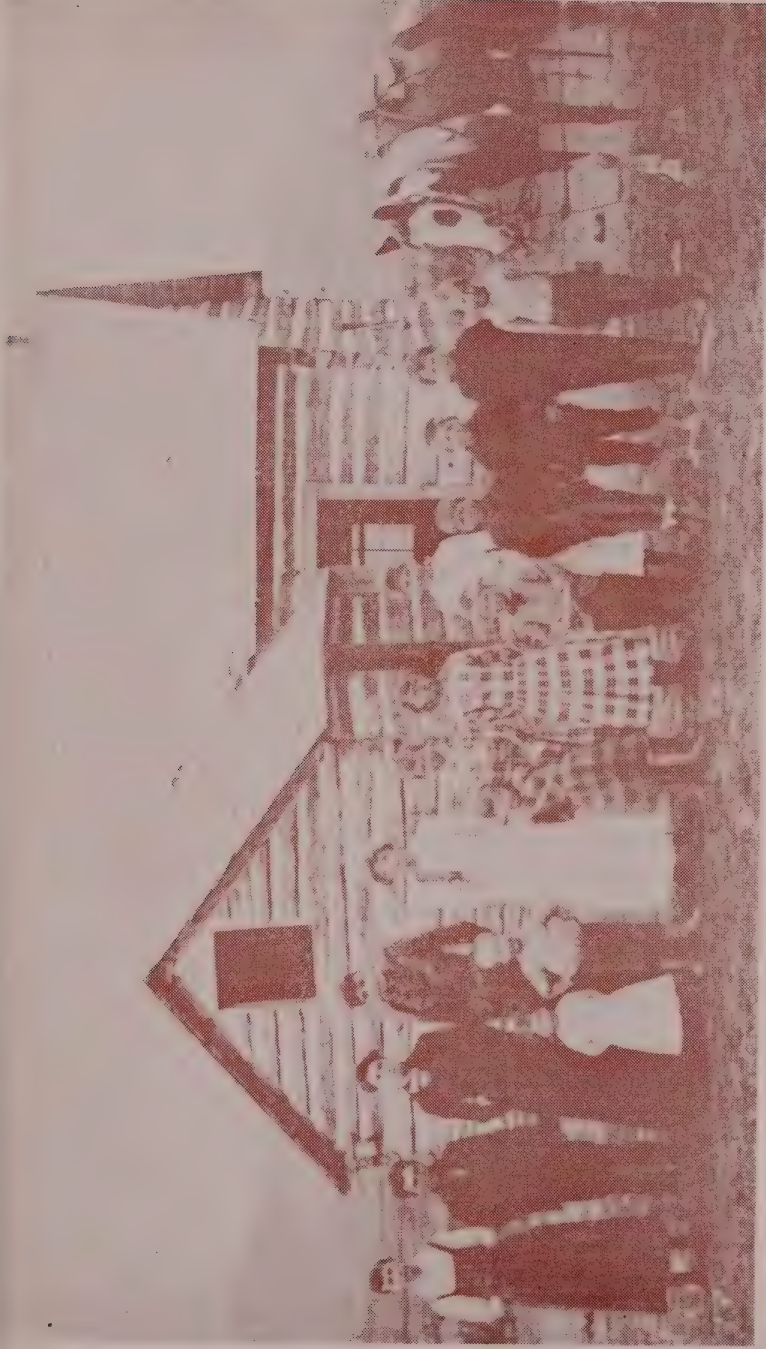
The C. B. & Q. made a survey through Big Horn and Sheridan. Congress would not permit a railroad in Yellowstone, and Sheridan was chosen as the route. Edward Gillette, civil engineer for the C. B. & Q., was courting Hallie Coffeen, and probably gave advance word.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Vandenberg mentioned on page 25 was the Hopkins House. Louise and Bob Hopkins went to school from there. They were relatives of Coffeens and Leavertons of Sheridan and Chicago.

Sacketts had stock or interest in the creamery mentioned on page 25.

The platform for the shows on page 25 included the Chas. Story Minstrels and show that brought a girl who became Mrs. Dan Woods. All leading men of Wyoming spoke there.

I slept with Mr. Ferdin (Fertig) mentioned on page 26 in a tarpaulin bed at Otto, Wyoming, February 1897. Fertig was nervous, and kept a 45 calibre Colt pistol under his head. There were rumors that he was being hunted.—C.L.S.



EARLY SCHOOL—School on Cruse Creek in Jim Reece house west of present Bird Farm about 1894. Left to right: Bertha Reece, Alan Harbison, Minnie Reece, Edna Jackson, teacher, two unidentified children, Millie Harbison, Nell Reece, Cora Reece, Florence Reece, Susie Zullig, Conrad Zullig, Will Zullig, John Zullig, Jesse Reece, Jim Reece. (Picture courtesy of Helvey family.)

Big Horn's Early School Buildings

PAM COUGHRAN

In 1881 the first school was conducted for a few months in a small dirt roofed partly dug-out cabin that trappers or the James boys had formerly used before the Jackson family camped there the winter of 1880 while their own house was being built. This room had no floor and the only heat was from a mud daubed fireplace which furnished the only light when the door was closed and when the unglassed window had to be covered by a deerskin to shut out bad weather. The pupils used benches made from hewn logs.

The only teacher to teach in this log cabin was Mr. Millard Filmore Benefield. There were 13 pupils in the school, among them May Davis, Sam, Lou and Harry Burgess; Ursula, Carl and Lee Sackett; Edna, Minnie and Frank Jackson; Eddie, Willie and Johnny Benefield (All survivors do not give the same list.)

There were no regular school books, but the pupils used whatever material they could bring from home. Mr. Benefield taught the multiplication tables, which the pupils learned by singing them to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

The next year children from several different families attended school in a log cabin which was built by the community about where the Youth Center stands. The material came from "Bear" Davis' water-power sawmill.

In 1884 the frame school house was constructed on the north end of the half block where Mr. and Mrs. Foster Bundy now (1958) reside. The material was made at the steam saw mill. The large well-constructed building with a belfry over a doorway faced south. Inside, a hall wide enough for wraps to be hung, extended across the building with a door near either end opening into the room. Often more than 50 pupils were being instructed by one teacher. The school house was large enough that the community held gatherings, Sunday School, and church there. When the attendance outgrew the size of the room, another teacher was hired to teach three primary grades, during the winters of 1892-1894, in a building standing beside the Big Horn Fire Station. Nellie Willits taught the primary grades there the winter of 1892-1893. Mrs. Charles A. Farwell (the second wife) taught there 1893-1894.

The primary room was built on the east side of the large frame school and was entered by a door cut in the east end of the original long hall. This two-room frame building served the district for

winter schools of eight-months and sometimes three-month summer sessions until the brick "College" building on the hill was purchased in 1903. At that time the large frame school room was moved and made into the beginning of the John M. Mills home.

From the early 1880's there were a few children living near the mountains in the southern end of the school district called Lone Star. There were two three-month terms taught in a log cabin near the John Price house (later sold to John Benton). The young lady teachers employed there lived with the Price family. The pupils were Gertie and Ota Price, Earl and Roy Benton, the Frank Benton children, and the six children of Thomas Rose, who died in September 1888 and was buried by Elder Benton and his grave marked by an inverted "U" shaped stone near the center of the east fence line in Mt. Hope Cemetery. The widow and children moved away.

The first teacher at this log cabin Lone Star was Miss Clara Cotton, who became Mrs. B. F. Perkins, who a few years later died at the Benton home wher she suffered a lung hemorrhage as she, with her husband, was returning from a camping trip on the mountains. The second teacher was Louise Buckley who became Mrs. Jim Enochs.

In 1884 Mr. J. W. Austin, a carpenter, built the frame Lone Star school house one-fourth mile south of the Makinley Wood cabin. The Benton children and others came to the school there on horseback or on foot. Miss Emma Haire and Miss Elizabeth Haire, sisters of Mrs. John Benton, taught several summer terms at the new Lone Star. Elizabeth later taught in winter in Big Horn where she kept house for the Benton children.

Summer schools continued to be conducted at Lone Star until 1894, when all families with small children came to be living on upper Hurlbut, Hanna or Jackson creeks. At that time the school board sold the frame Lone Star building to Aaron Darlington, who moved it for his barn where it is now in Mr. V. W. Needham's barn yard. Then the school board had the small frame room, that was left after the large room was removed, transported to Benton's ranch to a site that best served the children in that vicinity. There with a new entry it was used for over 30 years. When it was left unused the board had it brought to town again and made into the teacherage to which two bedrooms and an enclosed porch have been added. When the building was taken up the valley, horses lugged it for several days. When it came down it was on modern skids pulled by motor at 15 miles an hour.

Early Big Horn Teachers

NOLAN FARMAN

Mr. Millard Filmore Benefield was a brother of Mrs. James T. Wolfe and Mr. Benefield, the carpenter. Filmore taught the first term of school. He later attended college in Kansas.

Next Mr. J. T. Wolfe and Louisa Leavitt taught. He was elected School Superintendent of Johnson County and served, as Johnson County records show, from 1881-1883. After his name is listed "for a while." Doubtless he taught until Louisa Leavitt took over while he went to Buffalo to attend to his county office. Miss Leavitt is listed later as Mrs. Charles A. Farwell. The list says, "after Mrs. Farwell died, Wolfe taught again." (She taught last in August, 1884.)

"Mrs. Paxton taught after Wolfe." That would have been 1885-1886. Mr. Warren O'Dell filled in for a short time. He was an expert in mental arithmetic. He had two brothers, Sherman O'Dell and Lon O'Dell, who made the balloon ascensions. Miss Minnie Whittington is mentioned by several as teaching in 1887. She was a relative of the Hardee family on Big Goose and is recalled as having been an alert, pleasing instructor. She dressed at a masquerade ball in a costume made from copies of the Big Horn *Sentinel*.

Mr. and Mrs. Paxton homesteaded on the "old upper road" to Sheridan about two miles north of Victor Slack's present home. Later they moved near the west bank of Little Goose just northwest of the present Little Goose bridge on the oiled highway. Mrs. Paxton served as Sheridan County Superintendent of Schools from 1889-1893. Persons seeking teachers' certificates went to her house to be examined orally. She issued to them the certificates under which Nellie Willits, Edna Jackson, Sula Sackett, Dorothy Martin and other local girls taught.

William Brown was the teacher the fall of 1889. "Billie" Brown was the bookkeeper and often was left to manage the store for Mr. C. W. Skinner from about the time the Sackett and Skinner partnership ceased when Big Horn failed to become the county seat of Sheridan County. Brown was an able instructor. Some say he was the one from whom they learned the most. His hearing was poor and he did not always know when whispering was going on. For older youth who hungered for knowledge he was a superior guide. He attended the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893,

visited his Wisconsin home and became engaged to Eloise Carroll. In the bank failures of that year he lost his savings. This set him thinking how to avoid repetition of such calamities and caused him to identify himself with the Socialist party. Although he had already served Sheridan County in the Legislature, he refused to run again or seek county offices that were offered to him because he saw political corruption at work. In 1894 he brought his bride to Big Horn. Mrs. Brown was a trained primary teacher. During the years following they both taught many terms of school, and will never be forgotten by their pupils. Mrs. Brown used choral readings to impress historical events told in poetry and to awaken dramatic responses in her pupils.

The date is not certain for one term taught by young Mr. Howland who stopped in 1937 as an elderly gentleman to call upon Mrs. Minnie Martin and recount "school days."

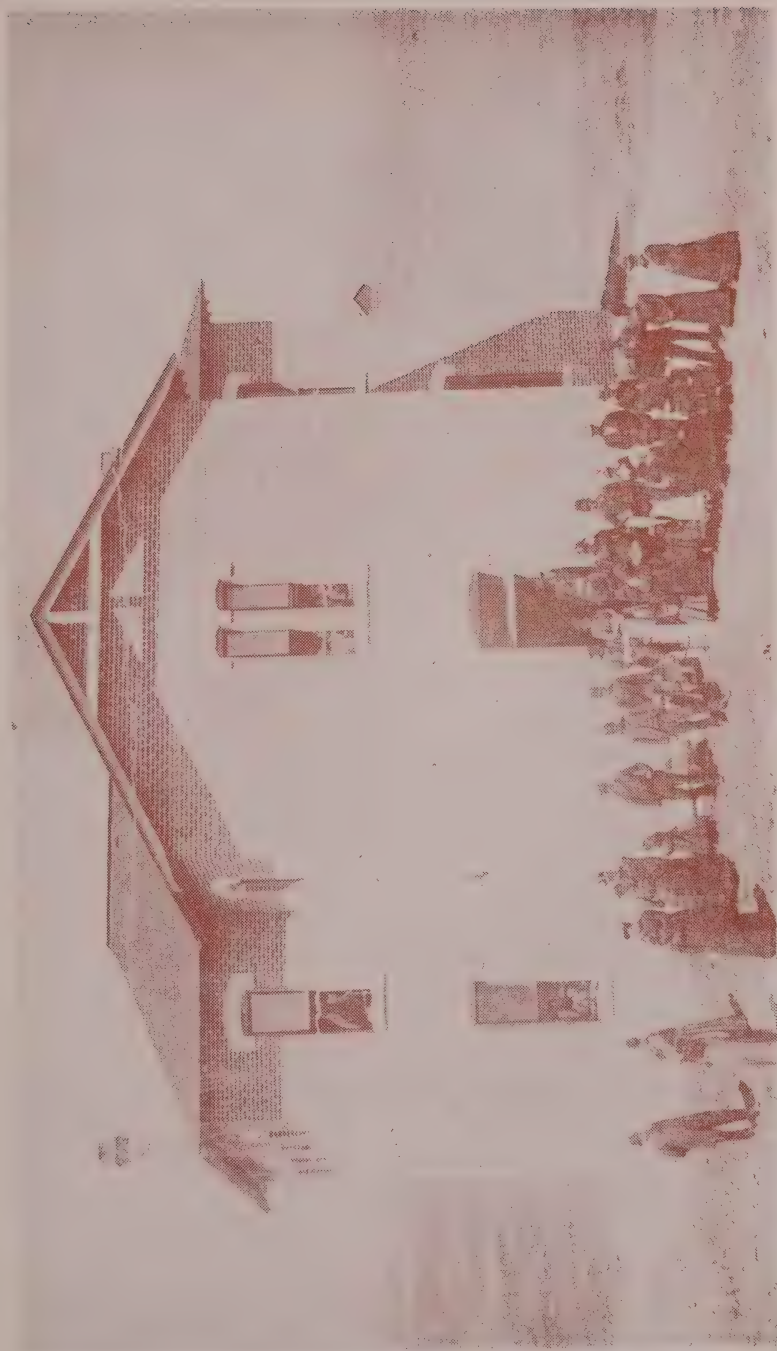
Miss Lutie Myers, sister of Mrs. O. P. Hanna, taught two terms between 1888 and 1900. One of those was at Lone Star where a photograph of a large group was taken in the summer of 1889. On May 8, 1900, Miss Myers was wedded at the Hanna home to Mr. J. C. Van Dyke, a merchant in Buffalo, where they resided until death came after they had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

During the 1890's Stella Balanger, an eastern girl, taught while she was waiting for an appointment to teach in Indian schools in Montana. Her love of teaching inspired several local girls.

Mr. Henry N. Robinson was head of our school several years and was deeply loved. He worked with the "College" after it was started. His family lived in the Woodley house where he beautified the yard with a running water system all summer pumped up a pipeline by a hydraulic ram placed in the creek over the bank east of where Roy Sackett's big metal garage now stands. In this and other devices he delighted to demonstrate the principles of physics.

Summer Sessions in the early 1890's were taught at Lone Star by the Misses Elizbaeth Haire, Emma Haire, Edna Jackson, Nellie Willits, and others. Summer sessions in Big Horn were taught by Edna Jackson and Jessie Lewis. who became Mrs. Robert Selway.

In the late 1890's in the upper grades the winter terms at Big Horn were taught by William Brown, Sula Sackett, Professor Nelson, and W. E. DeJarnette, now retired from the post office in Sheridan. The lower grades were taught by Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Guy Wood, Mrs. Nora Fay, Lena Seneff, and Gertrude Rowland.



WYOMING COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE—Mr. W. E. Jackson, standing in door; "Prof." H. N. Robinson, standing near corner. (Courtesy of Skinner family.)

The Wyoming Collegiate Institute

OLLIE JOSEPH

In the Little Goose Valley at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains stands the village of Big Horn that was the location of the Wyoming College and Norman School built in 1892.

The Congregational Missionary Society proposed to build an academy if the community would sell scholarships to finance it. (The Congregational denomination had had a society operating actively for some time.) A number of ambitious citizens who were interested in education, and thought it might boom their town, as well as increase property values, assumed the responsibility. They sold scholarships at one hundred dollars each and in many instances notes were given in payment.

The building site was donated by W. E. Jackson. Mr. Jackson and his son-in-law, Mr. L. E. Martin, burned the brick for the building on the Jackson place, about one-quarter mile upstream from the building. An outdoor dance was held by the light of the fire at the kiln, the night operations started.

Because no state wide basis of standards had yet been established there were no entrance requirements to the school. The following is quoted from the school bulletin of 1894-95: "As no satisfactory progress can be made pursuing the higher branches without a thorough knowledge of the common English studies it has been decided to conduct a Department known as the Grammar School. It is designed to complement the Common District School and in some measure to supply the place of High School, and to prepare for a course in the Institute proper." In the Normal Course were taught arithmetic, grammar, U.S. history, pedagogy, civil government, physiology, composition, botany, drawing, algebra, word analysis, general history, physical geography, rhetoric, physics, geometry, literature, psychology and school methods. The Classical Course was: algebra, Latin, word analysis, general history, rhetoric, geology, literature, botany, physical geography, geometry, physics, Greek, sociology, economics, trigonometry and evidences. The Scientific Course was the same except taking German instead of Greek. The Musical Literary Course was the same as the Classical, except music instead of Greek and Latin. The usual Commercial Course was taught. The tuition was one dollar per week. The Scholarship Coupons were not received in payment for the Commercial course. The students in the Commercial

course could take any of the studies in any regular course without extra charge.

Each morning school opened with an assembly in the chapel room by a scripture lesson and prayer led by one of the instructors.

The first faculty was composed of H. N. Robinson, Frank Brittain, and Miss June. The first trustees were: H. N. Robinson, Frank Brittain, Mr. J. J. Wagner and W. E. Jackson. The faculty of 1893 was: H. N. Robinson, Ph.D. and civil engineer from the University of Wisconsin. The Reverend Anderson, A.M. and D.D. from Knox College. The Reverend Bostwick, A.M. and D.D. from Oberlin College. The Reverend Austin, D.D., from DePauw University in Indiana, and W. E. Ransom of the University of Michigan.

Students attended from the adjoining communities of Sheridan, Dayton, Kearney, Parkman, Banner, Buffalo, Slack and Soldier Creek. Some came from Cheyenne and others from Montana and Wisconsin.

The school graduated but one class, that on May 5, 1897. The members of the class were: Sula J. Sackett (Mrs. James Gatchell of Buffalo); Edna M. Jackson (Dr. Edna Carver of Steam Boat Springs, Nev.); Carl Sackett (U.S. district attorney at Cheyenne); and J. M. White (U.S. clerk at Washington, D.C., for over 40 years.)

James H. Burgess, who took his preparatory work here, has been Judge of the Fourth Judicial District for thirty-two years.

The school started out with fine ideals, but lack of finances forced it out of existence. Since there was no support from taxes and some people refused to pay their scholarship notes, the tuition from the small enrollment could not support the project. It was hoped that by moving to Sheridan more patronage could be obtained, but the final classes were there in 1898.

In 1893 the building was sold to the Wyoming Collegiate Institute. In 1898 it was sold back to the Wyoming College and Normal School. Mortgages and notes were unpaid and suit was brought in 1899.

It was appealed to the Supreme Court and was finally taken over by the Farm Investment Company of Greeley, Colorado, Dec. 22, 1902. On August 11, 1903 the land with the building was purchased by School District No. 1, of Sheridan County for the sum of \$4,000.00.

In the school bulletin of 1894-95 appeared this information:

"Things Required"

1. Prompt attention is required at all enjoined exercises of the Institute and at all recitations.
2. A respectful and courteous demeanor towards all instructors.
3. A due respect and courtesy toward all associates, citizens and



GRADUATES—Wyoming Collegiate Institute. Left to right: Sula Sackett Gatchell, Carl Sackett, Edna Jackson Carver; sitting, J. M. White.

strangers.

4. A proper observance of the Sabbath. regular attendance at church and Sunday School, morning and evening, at such place of worship as the parents shall designate.
5. All students are required to be in their room at study from 7 till 9 o'clock P.M. and to retire not later than 9:30 P.M.

Things Prohibited

6. All profane and obscene language.
7. Loafing about places of amusement.
8. Riding, walking, or engaging in any kind of amusement during study hours.
9. Injury to Institutional property.
10. Use of tobacco about Institute building, or grounds, and all use of intoxicating drinks, and carrying arms.
11. Leaving town without permission.
12. Playing at games of chance.
13. Riding out with the opposite sex, and attending parties of pleasure without permission.
14. Visiting or receiving visits from the opposite sex, or keeping company with those not connected with the Institute without permission.
15. Receiving or giving instructions in any branch taught in one Institute from other than members of the faculty without consent.

1295364

Boarding

The citizens of our village being interested in our school will throw open their homes for students, and afford pleasant boarding places at reasonable rates. Board and room can be obtained from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per week. Students can secure rooms and board themselves at a much lower cost.

Location and Building

For beautiful and picturesque scenery, the village and Institute cannot be excelled. Its location gives it an invigorating, salubrious, mountain atmosphere, making it a veritable sanitarium. Parents or guardians having children or wards that are unable to endure hard study on account of physical debility, should try the effects of the mountain air by sending them to the Wyoming Collegiate Institute.

A commodious college building has been finished, affording well lighted, convenient, well ventilated halls, recitation rooms, chapel, music room and library.

This material was obtained in 1948 through conversation with Mrs. A. L. Garber and Mrs. Ray Wood, both pioneers of Big Horn. also Mrs. Jo Skinner, now deceased, and the Bulletin.

With "Benefit of Clergy"

BETTY GARRETT, BILL BLACKBURN
RALPH JOHNSON — Letters and Diaries

The first recorded sermon was September 18, 1881, at 3:00 P.M., at the Hanna cabin, where the Sam Thompson family was living. Elder George Washington Benton, who had arrived with his family organized as a missionary Baptist church, was the preacher. Two Sundays later, a second service is reported in Belle Benton's diary. On such occasions people removed the spring seats from their wagons and placed them in rows like pews. Elder Benton conducted Mrs. Mock's funeral on Tongue River within a few weeks after his first church service. Nine marriages performed before June 1885 by Elder Benton are in his daughter's diary, and several funerals in other valleys are listed.

The Reverend Mr. Probert, an Englishman, was the first missionary sent by the Congregational society in 1884. He may not have been here more than one year. He did preach a few times in Sheridan. He performed at least one marriage ceremony. He was not fond of riding a horse and thought nothing of walking long distances. When he was transferred by the Mission Board he was sent to the Gold Coast in Africa as letters found have shown.

Next the Jennings family from England was sent. It is recorded that November 22, 1885 at the Hardee ranch on Big Goose the Reverend Mr. Samuel J. Jennings performed the marriage ceremony for Lewis Bane and Amanda Hardee. (The Hardee family came from Iowa the same spring Frank Martin brought his family.) The Jennings filed on a homestead on Cruse Creek where the Warren Bard family now reside. The Jennings' family group photograph on the back of which reads the ad, "From the Photographic Studio of O. S. Goff, Sheridan and Buffalo, Wyoming. Indian, Round Up, and Frontier Views." shows the daughters Nettie and Lucy, sitting in a swing; the sons, George and Anthony (Tony) standing either side; Mrs. Jennings standing back of the swing; and her husband sitting in a chair on the left side. (About once a year Mr. Goff pitched his studio tent by the creek back of the present club house. For a few days he took photographs, mostly of children in his swing, that, with a chair and two scenery screens, were his only props.)

Among pioneer keepsakes is found this hand-written invitation:



JENNINGS FAMILY — Left to right (standing): George, Mrs. Victoria Jennings, Anthony; (seated) Nettie, Lucy, Rev. S. J. Jennings.

Surprise

1879

1887

Wedding Anniversary
Rev. and Mrs. Jennings
at home

July 29th from 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 PM
Picnic Refreshments

In the big frame school house where services were held, there was soon a reed organ across the top of which in decorative letters was the motto, "Praise Ye the Lord." This organ was carried to the hall over the store for dance music to supplement the earlier "town band." There were well-trained voices who rendered beautiful church music.

Mr. Jennings always very deftly spread a large white handkerchief on the floor in order to avoid dust showing on his black trouser knees when he rose from prayer. Although there were hymn books, he always read the hymn before it was sung. There was a hall running lengthwise along the front of the school building. Doors entering the main room were near either end of the hall. One young couple with a baby had come in one door and was sitting in the front of the room while the prayer was being given. As the Reverend Mr. Jennings rose from his knees and lined the hymn, another young couple was about to enter the other door with a baby who had been reported as having the whooping cough. The couple in front grabbed their child and rushed out just as "Brother" Jennings solemnly read, "What various hindrances we meet in coming to the mercy seat."

When Mrs. Jennings became ill, she made the trip by wagon to Fort McKinney to consult the army surgeon there. He sent her home "to stay in bed." She died a few days later. Her gravestone has "Victoria Jennings 1852-1889."

During the months following, Mrs. "Bear" Davis took care of Tony and George Jennings (now a widower, East Glacier, Mont.) Anthony after graduating at the University of Wyoming in 1901 returned to head Big Horn school. He died here in 1906 at the home of Mrs. Jennie Davis, who had been his closest friend and advisor ever since his mothers' death. Mrs. Edmund Hurlbut took care of Nettie and Lucy (each died in early womanhood.) The friend, who consented to come from England. The next year Reverend Mr. Jennings was transferred to Sheridan, where he organized the Congregational Church there before he was sent to Idaho.

Plans for a church building were urged, and the frame church

was erected in 1892 and dedicated the next spring. The brick church was built the following year. The ground for both of these churches was donated by W. E. Jackson.

Some of the well-remembered ministers who served in Big Horn are found in old records. Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Bostwick lived in the then newly built Preserved S. McKey house (now the Alois Schmid home.) Mrs. Bostwick, whose hair was like gleaming gold in the sunlight, was "so bold" as to walk bare-headed to the post office. A young preacher was Marvin Rader, who also substituted as a teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Young were here when the frame church was dedicated. Mrs. Young, when her husband had to be away, shocked the brethren once by preaching an excellent sermon. She was trained for youth leadership. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson had a family of four young persons who were a large asset. Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Day homesteaded on upper McCormick Creek, over the hill east of Conrad Zullig. The church reappointed them several times. Mrs. Day gave music lessons. Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Toland lived two years in the Sunday School room of the frame church. Originally the door entered from the west side of the vestibule. That made it necessary at a funeral to carry the casket through the little room. One Monday forenoon a procession of neighbors came unannounced from Prairie Dog Valley asking for a funeral service. Mrs. Toland had to scurry her wash bench and tubs behind the curtain that concealed her beds. It was the Reverend Mr. H. A. Toland who performed the marriage of Frank Spracklen and Belle White on October 26, 1897. (That was the only church wedding before 1900.) One marriage ceremony was performed in the street in front of Skinner's store as the bride and groom sat on their saddle horses. They were strangers having just come from Nebraska and were relatives of a new family here. The pastor of the brick church officiated. Several men, who taught at the "College" were ordained ministers, who often conducted church services. Many of the young people joined the church. A young people's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized and later an Epworth and a Junior League. When Mr. and Mrs. Harry Austin came, he was both pastor of the church and principal of the "College" before he was the captain of Troop "E" of Torrey's cavalry. For some years Pastor and Mrs. Orin Ferren (Adventist organizer for a wide area) lived in the Woodley house after Professor H. N. Robinson and family moved away. Their young people were outstanding. Rollin with his wife and his sister Fannie visited here last year. The other members of the family are deceased.

Monroe Nottingham, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Nottingham was injured by his saddle horse's falling and rolling over him on the way home from school on a Friday afternoon. He died the next day, and the funeral was conducted on Monday morning with the school attending as a group while the bell tolled Monroe's age. Mrs. Martha Sackett, the mother of Miss Sula Sackett, who was the upper grade teacher, handed each child a bouquet of flowers she had prepared to place on Monroe's casket when the school marched by at the close of the service at the church. There was not standing room inside the church for those who had come to show their sympathy to the Nottingham family. Then as the line of wagons formed in procession the school pupils walked in lines of four out to Mount Hope Cemetery as a farewell to their school-mate.

Halcyone Goodrich Morgereidge wrote, "My chief memory of a church service was that we attended a funeral and that the bell tolled for quite a while before the service began. I recall seeing Vie Willits and Jessamine Spear at Sunday School, we were not well-acquainted at that time as they both lived out of town. I knew the Skinner girls and another girl named May Potter who had long dark braids. I was most with Myrta and Rollin and Fannie Ferren. They sometimes took me to their Adventist meetings that I think were held in one room of the school house. There were also two older girls, Minnie Enos and Edith Gleason. Minnie knew where to find wild currants and gooseberries. There was the Minister Toland's family. The son was named Estus with whom I went riding quite a lot. I recall his fishing and being very generous with his trout."

Mrs. Cassie Horney and family lived for a time on Cruse Creek. She always drove to Big Horn Sunday mornings and helped with the Sunday School. Others who were tireless workers for the church year after year would make a long list.

Early Johnson County Fairs

GAYLE ROLSTON

(In a printed booklet 3 3/8 inches by 5 3/8 inches has this cover)

Premium List
of the
Second Annual
F A I R
of the
Johnson Co. Agricultural Association
Big Horn, Wyoming
September 14th - 17th
1886
Bring this List to the Fair

(Inside front cover in part as follows:)

"The first Fair ever held in Wyoming Territory was organized and held last year at the town of Big Horn, in Johnson County, and was pronounced a success in its exhibits and management ..."

"We now appeal to you citizens of Wyoming and especially of Johnson County, to attend our next Fair. We have every facility now for making it a far better Fair than it was before. Our Premium List shows an offer of nearly Two Thousand Dollars in Cash Premiums, and no pains will be spared to render comfort and help to those who come to the Fair."

The Trustees have voted to furnish every convenience for those who bring their families and pitch their tents at Big Horn during the Fair. Free wood and clean straw, good camping grounds near one of the finest streams of water in Wyoming, and feed and provision at most reasonable rates. Good beds and restaurant facilities can be had as before."

Rules, Regulations and Premium List
of the
Second Annual Fair
of the
Johnson County
Agricultural Association
to be held on the Grounds of the Society
at Big Horn,
Johnson County, Wyoming Ter.

Commencing on
 Tuesday. Sept. 14, 1886
 and continuing four days
 T. J. Boulton's "Echo" Print.
 Buffalo
 1886

Board of Trustees

H. A. Coffeen	Pres.
Wm. F. Davis	Vice Pres.
J. O. Willits	Secretary
C. W. Skinner	Treas.
F. D. Grissell, C. A. Farwell, E. Spence Perry, W. W. Greene, W. E. Jackson.	

Officers of the Fair

H. A. Coffeen	Pres. and Gen. Supt.
Wm. F. Davis	Vice Pres.
J. O. Willits	Secy.
Harry Fulmer	Marshall
Charles Spear	Assistant Marshall
E. S. Perry	Gate Keeper
W. E. Jackson	Supt. of Grounds, Stalls
Mrs. J. O. Willits	Supt. of Floral Hall

By-Laws of

Johnson County Agricultural Association

1. The name, object and general purposes of this society shall be those named in its Articles of Incorporation.

2. Any citizen of Johnson County may become a member of this association by subscribing to the by-laws and rules of association, and subscribing for one or more shares, and paying all assessments heretofore made, and all that may here after be made on the same.

3. The annual meeting of shareholders, for the election of officers and the transaction of other business, shall be held on the Fair Grounds, on the next day after the Annual Fair each year, at 10 o'clock A.M.

4. The presence of a majority of all paid up shares at any annual or special meeting shall constitute a quorum, and each share shall be entitled to one vote.

5. Shares may be represented in person or by written proxy.

6. The officers of this association shall consist of a President, Vice President. Secretary, Treasurer, and a board of nine

Trustees, who shall be elected by ballot to serve a term of one year, and until their successors are duly elected and installed. The President shall be elected from among the Board of Trustees.

7. In addition to the usual duties and powers of a presiding officer, it shall be the duty of the President by and with the advice of two or more Trustees, to call a special meeting of the shareholders of the Association, giving at least ten days notice to the shareholders, of time, place, and purpose of said meeting, either by mail or by publication in one or more newspapers of the county. The President of the Association shall also be the President of the Board of Trustees, preside at all meetings of the same, appoint all committees unless otherwise ordered, and fill all vacancies by appointment, except a vacancy in the Board of Trustees. Previous to each Annual Fair, he shall, by and with the consent of the Board of Trustees, make all necessary appointments for conducting the Fair. The President shall be the General Superintendent during the holding of Fairs and Exhibitions, and shall fill all vacancies by appointment, consulting as far as convenient with Trustees who may be at hand.

8. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to perform all the duties of the President in the absence or during the inability of the President to act.

9. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to attend all meetings of the Board of Trustees, and of the stockholders, and keep a record of all the proceedings necessary to be written, conduct all correspondence, take charge of the entry books during the Fair. He may withdraw entries from the Fair.

10. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys belonging to the Association, from the hands of the Secretary, receipting therefore, keep strict account of the receipts and expenditures, and pay out said moneys only upon warrants duly signed by the President and Secretary of the Association and shall at each annual meeting, and whenever required by the Board of Trustees, make a full report of the financial condition of the Association.

11. The Secretary and Treasurer shall each give bond in the penal sum of one thousand dollars for the faithful performance of their duties, and the proper delivery of all books and moneys belonging to the Association to their successors in office, or to the Board of Trustees, on demand being made for the same.

12. The Board of Trustees shall have the general management of all affairs of the Association, and conduct its business as the laws of the Territory provide.

13. Five members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

14. The Trustees shall have power to levy and collect assessments on all shares of stock. and declare shares forfeited for delinquency or non-payment after due notice shall have been given. They shall fix the time of holding the Annual Fairs, and shall prepare a premium list and publish the same as far as practicable at least sixty days prior to the Fair, and make all other arrangements necessary for the holding of Fairs and Exhibitions, on behalf of the Association, and adopt rules and regulations for the government of the same..

15. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any meeting of the Board of Trustees by a majority vote of the whole number of Trustees.

General Rules

1. The Fair will open Tuesday, September 14, 1886, and continue four days.

2. Entries shall be made as far as possible by mail in advance, sending application to J. O. Willits, Secretary.

3. No entry fee is required except in cases where cash premiums are paid. In such cases the entry fee will not be less than fifteen percent of the amount to be paid in premiums, and four entries shall be necessary for all full cash awards. In case of less than four entries, awards may be made; in which case one-half the entrance fee shall be paid as a first premium.

4. Grain and hay will be furnished at reasonable rates.

5. No animal will be allowed to run at large on the Fair Grounds, nor to be hitched to trees or shrubbery. Any violation of this rule subjects the animal or team to removal and exclusion from the grounds.

6. The grounds will be guarded day and night.

7. All who wish to secure space on the Fair Grounds for hucksters' stands or other proper privileges, must apply to the Secretary before the Fair opens.

8. Entries of all articles for exhibition may be made at the Secretary's office during the week preceding the Fair, and up to 3 o'clock P.M. of the first day of the Fair, except in the speeding department.

9. Entries must be made on the Secretary's books and a certificate of the same obtained, before articles can secure a place on the Fair Grounds. and exhibitors must see to the proper delivery and entry of articles, and take charge of them at the close of the Fair. The directors and superintendents will exercise all due care for the safety of articles and animals exhibited but will not be responsible for any damage that may occur.

AWARDS AND PREMIUMS

1. The diploma, under seal of the Association, shall be considered the highest award and will only be given as a first premium. Certificates under seal will be given for second.

12. Where a cash premium is paid a reasonable fee will be deducted for the Diploma or Certificate, but in all other cases they will be furnished free of charge.

13. Awarding committees will be appointed by the executive board, as far as convenient, in advance of the Fair, without publication of their names, and vacancies on committees will be filled during the Fair, by the President of the Association.

14. No person is entitled to serve on an awarding committee to pass upon articles where he is competing for a premium.

15. Any exhibitor who shall be found in any manner endeavoring to interfere with, or unjustly influence the fair and honorable decision of the judges, shall be refused any further chance for awards, and forfeit any awards already given.

16. Members of awarding committees in each department will report to the superintendent of the same at 10 o'clock on Wednesday, the second day of the Fair, at which time vacancies on committees will be filled by the president, and the superintendent will take charge of the committees—instruct them to examine each article or animal separately, and vote each on his own judgment without argument or suggestion from others, handing their vote by ballot to the superintendent, who will make record of their decision. In case of a tie vote, the superintendent may appoint a fourth committeeman to give the casting vote.

17. In case of protest, notice must be given to the superintendent of the department for his decision, accompanied by a written statement of reasons for protesting.

18. In case of thoroughbred animals exhibited, pedigrees traceable to the proper herd book, and properly authenticated, will be required by the superintendent of livestock departments.

19. Everyone is earnestly requested to bring articles for exhibition at this Fair, and have them reach the grounds not later than Tuesday the first day of the Fair, and properly entered and located. Articles of interest not mentioned in the awarding lists will receive such awards as the committee may recommend and the executive board approve.

20. Exhibitors wishing to remove their stock from the grounds at night, will be allowed to do so upon depositing \$5 with the Secretary, and if the stock is not brought back to the grounds by 10 o'clock the next morning such deposit shall be forfeited to the Association.



DIPLOMA—Johnson County Agricultural Association Diploma. This award issued to Mrs. D. L. Hilman, pioneer resident of Goose Creek Valley at First Agricultural Fair held in Big Horn City, Wyoming, September 15, 1885. (Courtesy of Hilman family.)

RACES

21. The races will be under the rules of the National Trotting Association, and with the finest track in the West, will form a leading attraction on the second and fourth days of the Fair.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS

22. President and general superintendent, white rosette; general secretary and assistant, blue rosette; treasurer, green rosette; trustees, directors of the Fair, red rosettes; superintendents of departments, blue ribbon; marshal, red sash; assistant marshals, blue sash; police or special constables, metallic badge.

23. The president of the Association will have general charge of the Fairs and grounds, and all officers and superintendents of departments will report to him for duty at 10 o'clock A.M. on Tuesday, at the Secretary's office on the Fair Grounds.

RATES OF ADMISISION

24. Every person admitted must have a ticket of admission and such badge as may be provided by the Association. Single admission\$.50 Children under 14\$.25
Season Ticket, 4 days \$1.50 Saddle horse or team, 1 day .25
Family tickets at liberal reductions. Season tickets are not transferrable. Stockholders' tickets must be obtained at the Secretary's office, with receipt for paid up assessments. The rates of admission are only one-half the usual rates of some Western Fairs, and are placed low to encourage everyone to come and contribute to the success of the Fair.

SALE DAY

All persons wishing to sell or exchange livestock or other articles exhibited, will be allowed the free use of the Fair Grounds on the day following the close of the Fair, and the services of a competent auctioneer are secured for such purpose.

PREMIUM LIST

(Only the headings are copied and names of local persons appointed to be superintendent, assistant or contingent.)

CLASS A. CATTLE—John W. Price, Assistant; J. D. Adams. Contingent.

CLASS B. HORSES—J. A. Scrutchfield, Assistant.

CLASS C. SHEEP—S. A. Iden, Assistant.

CLASS D. HOGS—John Myres, Superintendent.

CLASS E. POULTRY—Makinley Wood, Superintendent; Edwin Fields, Assistant.

CLASS F. TAXIDERMY—

CLASS G. MECHANICAL—J. W. Austin, Assistant.

CLASS H. FIELD PRODUCTS—D. T. Hilman, Assistant.

CLASS I. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES—J. F. Lewis, Superintendent.

CLASS K. COOKERY AND DAIRY PRODUCTS—Mrs. Wm. F. Davis, Superintendent.

CLASS L. FLORAL DEPARTMENT—Mrs. J. W. Austin, Assistant.

CLASS M. CURIOSITIES AND RELICS — Bert Coffeen Assistant; Mrs. H. A. Coffeen, Assistant.

CLASS Q. ENTERTAINMENTS — Roping and Riding Wild Horses — J. O. Willits kindly offers to furnish horses from his herd.

CLASS R. RACES—J. W. Custis, Assistant.

CLASS S. MISCELLANEOUS — Mrs. J. W. Custis, Superintendent.

CLASS T. BABY SHOW—Mrs. J. F. Lewis, Superintendent.

Under six months—Finest specimen of baby, gold neck chain, valued at \$10.00. Second best, silver cup, valued at \$5.00.

Over six months and under fifteen—Looks, amiability and intellectuality considered. Best baby. gold neck chain, valued at \$10.00. Second best, silver cup, valued at \$5.00.

(Names of citizens from all over the county are found. To us here at Big Horn the local ads are of especial interest.)

Big Horn Still Ahead

H. A. Coffeen

dealer in

Dry Goods,

Groceries,

Boots and Shoes,

Clothing

Hardware,

Notions

When you visit BIG HORN, please visit our Store and learn our prices.

We do not sell "all goods at cost," are not doing business for that purpose.

We do not often jump from 300 to 30 per cent either upward or downward at single jumps.

Our motto is the lowest prices for Cash that circumstances will allow, all things considered.

Yours with respect,

H. A. Coffeen

* * *

Big Horn

Feed and Sale Stables

A good barn and the best of hay and grain at reasonable rates.

A. J. Coates, proprietor

* * *

Oriental Hotel

Big Horn, Wyoming

This hotel lately coming into the possession of the present Proprietor has been refitted and enlarged.

Vegetables and Game in Season

Clean beds and good meals at reasonable rates

George C. Snyder, Proprietor

* * *

Big Horn Blacksmith Shop

A. J. Coates, Proprietor

Blacksmithing done in all its branches.

Woodwork of all kinds.

* * *

Sackett and Skinner

dealers in

Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats, Gent's and Ladies' Furnishing Goods and Notions in endless variety. Also a superior line of Boots and Shoes which we claim to be the finest stock in Johnson County. We also handle all kinds of Hardware, Tinware, Woodenware, Glassware, Queensware, Machine Oil, Paints, Drugs, etc., and the finest line of Staple and Fancy Groceries. Tobaccos and Cigars that can be purchased in any Mercantile Establishment in Johnson County, which we propose to sell as low as they can be bought anywhere in Northern Wyoming.

All we ask is a fair and impartial trial. Do not allow anything that may have been said to prejudice you against the firm, as it is our intention to sell, even if we have to sacrifice our goods in order to do so.

Call and examine and see for yourself then you will be convinced that we mean business.

We remain, yours anxious to please,

Sackett and Skinner

* * *

(Someone recalls that there were only two sulkies in this country. As soon as one race was finished two more horses were hooked to the sulkies and another race was started.)

Troop E

BECKY MORTENSON

Troops under Colonel Jay L. Torrey were known as Torrey's Rough Riders. They were organized in 1898 to serve in the Spanish-American War. One of these troops, Troop E, was organized on May 22 at Fort D. A. Russell, Cheyenne. This troop was composed mostly of volunteers from Big Horn, Sundance and Newcastle.

The following information was compiled from Mrs. Vie Garber and Mr. Arthur Schneider, about the men who went from Big Horn and the surrounding territory.

The captain, H. H. Austin, was born in New Castle, Indiana, and at the time of his enlistment was principal of the Wyoming Collegiate Institute at Big Horn. He was also the pastor of the Congregational Church of Big Horn. He was a graduate from DePauw University at Greencastle, Indiana. He married a Buffalo girl and made his home in the West before the war, but did not return after the war.

T. J. Gatchell, the first sergeant, married Miss Ursula Sackett, a former teacher of Big Horn and daughter of J. H. Sackett of the first mercantile company in Sheridan County. When he came back from the war he was appointed as postmaster of Big Horn, but he decided against accepting this post and moved to Buffalo where he opened the Gatchell Drug Store which his children now operate. Gatchell was deeply interested in Wyoming history. His hobby of collecting curios grew to fill many glass cases in his Buffalo drug store. He served as historian for the Johnson-Sheridan County Old Settlers Association for years, wrote many historical reports, and gave numerous talks on his research.

A newspaper clipping entitled, "Pioneer Buffalo Druggist is Given Club's Distinguished Service Award," told of the presentation of a distinguished service award on the basis of outstanding citizenship by the Casper Kiwanis Club to T. J. "Jim" Gatchell on March 30, 1950. Another newspaper clipping, "Buffalo Druggist Celebrates His Fiftieth Year in Business," told that the year 1950 was a year of double celebration for Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Gatchell, their golden wedding anniversary on November 22, and Mr. Gatchell's 50th year in the drug store business. After his death in 1954, a memorial fund was established in Johnson County, and the Gatchell Memorial Museum was built as an annex to the Johnson County Carnegie Library in connection with which it is operated by the county commissioners.



JOHNSON COUNTY FAIR—Picture of prize cattle taken at Johnson County Fair, first agricultural fair, taken at Big Horn, September 15, 1885. List of officers of the day: Pres. H. A. Coffeen, Secty. J. O. Willits, Marshal W. F. Davis; Judges Jack Sackett, Chas. Farwell, Jake Wagner, Jack Dow, Dolph Yonkee, Geo. T. Beck, John McCormick. (Picture courtesy Hilman family.)

George Skinner, a sergeant, was the brother of Charles Skinner of the Sackett and Skinner Company. After the war, he married Maude Reed, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Reed, who lived a few years on the Val Reece ranch and sent their children to the Big Horn school. Mr. and Mrs. George Skinner built and lived in what is now Brown Sinsel's house. Later he homesteaded on Meade Creek and purchased the homestead of Mr. Jennings on Cruse Creek where he made his home until he moved to Oregon in 1943. His death occurred at Phoenix, Oregon, November 19, 1958. and his burial was in Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

Robert Long, also a sergeant, was an expert horseman. With his family he had homesteaded on Trabing Creek flats, to the southeast of the Fordyce buildings where Moores now reside. He had farmed on rented land until after he came back from the war when he and his wife moved to Sheridan and later the Pacific coast where Mr. Long died a few years ago.

The corporals from Big Horn were Arthur C. Schneider and Bird Moore. The men appointed as corporals held this position from the time they enlisted until they were discharged.

Arthur C. Schneider is now living in Sheridan. Mr. Schneider was one of the first to be sent to his former home in Missouri from the Florida encampment on sick leave because of typhoid fever. For a time he worked as a forest ranger after the war, but later he and his wife, Emily Stevenson, farmed at the east end of the Hanna ranch.

Mr. Bird Moore, the brother of Jack Moore, the first famed breeder of Hereford bulls in Johnson County, was a cowboy from the Spear Cattle Company before the war. After the war, he and his wife, a Nebraska girl, farmed the John W. Custis homestead before buying a farm on Big Goose near Sheridan where they retired.

The blacksmith was Herman Gerdel, whose parents homesteaded the Gerdel ranch, which is now the Hosford ranch. After the war he returned to Big Horn, married, and lived in what is now Mrs. Kusel's house. He operated the blacksmith shop here for some time.

Milo Hamilton, the saddler, had married before the war and had two daughters. Many years later he and his wife lived in Big Horn in what is now Warner's house. Mrs. Hamilton died one afternoon of a heart attack while visiting Mrs. Dick Parker.

These troopers were enlisted in Troop E from Big Horn: Russell Conger, James W. Croghan, Benjamin F. Draper, Carl and Roger Gleason, William Moncreiffe, Archie Sollars, Paul Willits, Robert C. Wilkerson, Frank E. Wood and George Webster.

Russell Conger was a hired man at Moncreiffes before the war. During the months in camp he took pictures of the boys and the camp with his Kodak.

James Croghan lived southwest of Big Horn.

Benjamin Draper, a horsebreaker from Montana, married a Laramie girl. Before the war he worked for the Burlington Railroad, but after the war he worked for the Union Pacific Railroad as a brakeman. He was later transferred by this railroad to Caliente, California.

Roger and Carl Gleason were the brothers of Mrs. Belken, who resides in Sheridan, after having lived on a ranch on the Little Horn. The Gleasons had lived on the "Hanna" ranch for a time. After the war Carl was here for a few years working under Mr. W. E. Jackson in the Forest Service (1901-1903). From a program of the Progressive Literary Society of the Wyoming Collegiate Institute we found that Carl was on a debating committee on the question, "Resolved that the influence of women in the world has not been for good." Roger Gleason did not reside here after the war.

William Moncreiffe, a native of Scotland, came to Sheridan County in 1892, and with his brother Malcolm ranched 3000 acres in the Upper Little Goose Valley. He received his American Citizenship in 1903. In spite of having much to attend to with his personal ranch interests, he volunteered his service with Troop E. He went with the boys of this community into the service, refusing any commissions and insisting on being a private. His greatest concern was for the welfare of those who became ill. He was greatly grieved over the death of Russell Conger, and had many of his Kodak pictures printed as memorial gifts and sent to the boys of the troop.

Archie Sollars ranched on Upper Piney, and was a plumber in Sheridan for some time.

Paul Willits, brother of Mrs. Vie Garber, was the clerk for Troop E, and later became a corporal. He told Mrs. Garber that Colonel Torrey had asked that all the horses be named with the letter of their assigned rider's troop. Mr. Willits' horse's name was Elco.

Robert C. Wilkerson resided in this county until his death in 1910, and was always a professional horseman.

Frank Wood was the brother of Clyde and Ray Wood, who now reside in Sheridan. He lived and died away from Big Horn.

Mr. George Webster is recorded as a "Trooper in Company E." He had worked near Big Horn for some years. In the Congregational Church record of 1895 he is on the board of trustees and

chairman of the music committee. He sang tenor in the choir. Some years later he married a widow and they lived on the "Westgate" place.

The length of service of Troop E was from May to September, 1898. The conditions at Camp Cuba Libre, Jacksonville, Florida, where they were stationed, were terrible. The food was bad; the potatoes were wormy; the bacon had strippers; the hardtack was full of cobwebs. Typhoid fever broke out because of the heat and the bad conditions. There were no provisions for sanitary disposal of any kind.

When the men in the troops left from this vicinity, they had every intention of being in the war. However, on the way to Florida the train on which the men were traveling was wrecked. Six men were killed and several were injured including Colonel Torrey. The men were placed in the encampment near Jacksonville, Florida, to rest from the accident.

When the men came home, everyone in the community of Big Horn participated in a program and dance for them.

Big Horn men, who were in the service but not in Troop E were Mr. Charles Frank Jackson and Mr. James Malcolm White. Charles Frank Jackson was chief bugler in the officers' staff of Torrey's Cavalry. His son, who was born after the war, was named "Jay" for Colonel Jay L. Torrey. James Malcolm White served in the Spanish-American War in the Philippine Islands in the Wyoming National Guard, who were mustered at Cheyenne at the same time Torrey's Troopers were.

Lee Burd Sackett was chief checker of the U.S. Government supplies to the Philippine Islands. He went there from Big Horn with Battery "A" of Wyoming Light Artillery from Cheyenne in 1898 on the way to the Philippine Islands where he soon became a scout. He was guide and horseman in the Geological Survey of the Cloud Peak area of the Big Horn Mountains. Lee was a boxer in the army at Manila.—C.L.S.

Mt. Hope Cemetery

EDDIE SACKETT

On a hillside in Wyoming, a mile or so east of a little town whose day is done, more than a few pioneers lie interred. Their resting place is not a manicured city burying ground, but a simple fenced-in plot of wilderness that changes colors with the seasons and that hears the song of the meadowlark more often than the sound of voices. The headstones here weather fast with the sun and the cold and the wind, and in a few more years may be unreadable. When this happens, a bit more of the Old West will have vanished from the land, and the songs of the pioneers will not sound quite so loud in the ears of youth.

Some of the stones tell with a few words of lives full of event:

Henrietta Darlington

Jan. 13, 1826

Jan. 22, 1916

Aged 90 years and 9 days

A Quakeress, as a child she had known President Andrew Jackson by sight.

There are other kinds of history inscribed on some of the stones:

John T. Conley

Feb. 20, 1844

Mar. 27, 1904

Co. D 102 Reg Ill Vol

With Gen Sherman

On march to sea

One soldier of the Grand Army of the Republic, lying here in a grave decorated with sagebrush, one man, who in his life saw all the fire and slaughter of the Civil War, is at rest in a land which saw its own kind of war.

He and his widow after him had the post office in the frame building south of our present Fire Station.

Another stone, tragically left lying after a sturdier stone was erected, reads:

Earl

Son of

J. T. & M. E.

Glasgow

Died
Oct. 1, 1890
Aged
2 yrs. 11 mo's
& 12 days

He died from a sunstroke following older children.
There are a few headstones that leave one wondering:

Florence N. Hamilton
Born June 21, 1857
Died Jan. 21. 1927
She hath done what she could

The wife of a Spanish-American Trooper.
And then there are those that say simply:

Nathaniel Welman
1827-1905

He homesteaded on McCormick Creek where the Cruse Creek
cut-off joins Highway 87.

Or:

Nettie Maria Scott
1869-1893

That was a young woman, only 24.
There is this one:

Anna Kusel
1849-1915

She never lived to see her adopted country go to war with
Germany, her native land, nor did she live to know that her
youngest son George died just before the Armistice of 1918. His
was the only gold star on the Big Horn service flag.

And there are more, all of them tell all too little about some-
thing which requires so much.

But the most baffling are the headboards — scattered and
tumbled and few in number, no word can even be fancied upon
their surfaces. They lie here and there in the far corners of the
graveyard, mostly hidden by the unkept grass, almost none of
them upright, and all of them seemingly as old as the hill upon
which they lie. These mark the oldest graves, the graves of the
settlers whose very names are forgotten. Beneath them lie the
traders and the trappers and the early ranchers who followed in
the tracks of the army when the plains tribes were finally van-
quished and swept away to the mountains. It is a mean soul who
is not humbled at the sight of these weathered slabs.

Much more is there. Books could be written from the history compiled on this one piece of hillside, with its jackrabbit watchmen and its robin caretakers.

But the historian should waste no time, for even if the hand of man is little in evidence in this lonely spot, with only a few cultivated flowers vying with nature's, still and all the signs of a great and bygone era are swiftly vanishing. The elements, and neglect, are doing their job well.

A deed to this five acres was given for the consideration of fifteen dollars by John F. Lewis and his wife Myra Lewis to the trustees of Mount Hope Cemetery on the twelfth day of November, 1895.

Though this ground has been legally set aside for a cemetery, it has not legally appointed how boards of trustees shall be perpetuated. Something should be done, and quickly, before a harsh time swallows up the last remains of that glorious age we know as the Old West.

James Orr Willits

RICHARD STORY GARBER

James Orr Willits, son of Eli Willits and his wife, Harriet Drury, was born in Richmond, Wayne Co., Indiana, July 21, 1846.

He was reared in Aledo, Mercer County, Illinois, by the sister of his mother, who died when he was four years of age.

At sixteen years of age he went to California with a wagon train. There he worked in Wells-Fargo offices at Sacramento and San Francisco for four years before returning to Illinois via Panama and New York. He attended Iowa Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, for three years. He went into the grain buying, milling and stock fattening business at New Boston, Mercer County, Illinois where he built his house and took his bride, Harriet Clark, July 21, 1870. After ten years his health became poor due to having overworked his heart by excessive exercise. His stock feeding yards were on the Iowa side of the Mississippi river across which he rowed or skated every day. He held the single and double rowing championship across the Mississippi. With his family, then a son and daughter, he visited Colorado a few weeks in 1880 to learn views on livestock ranching.

In the spring of 1881, James Orr Willits, who was my great-great grandfather, rode a saddle horse from Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory to Bozeman, Montana Territory looking for a place to establish his home and run horses for his business. He selected Little Goose Creek.

He left his saddle horse with Mr. W. E. Jackson at Big Horn City and took the stage for Cheyenne. He then returned to Illinois, where his wife and children were ready to move as soon as he should come. He shipped his household goods, some farm machinery, teams and wagons by freight over the Union Pacific Railroad to Cheyenne. From Cheyenne to Little Goose Creek with the help of a hired man they continued by wagon.

In the three weeks' wagon trip, Mrs. Willits kept bread and food prepared ahead so that some nights camp could be made without water or fire when time could be saved by watering the horses in the afternoon and driving several miles farther before sundown.

After reaching the land Mr. Willits had staked out south of the O. P. Hanna claim, they found a large cold spring on the west forty and there lived in tents while they constructed a log house with bedrooms upstairs and a shingled roof and planed floors. He plowed about ten acres of sod for the next year's seeding.

They used all the wire they had to fence in part of the forty and in October took one wagon back to Cheyenne to get the rest of the things left in storage. One item was an upright piano which is still in the family (1958) now after seventy-seven years.

For a few years Mr. Willits ran a bunch of horses at the head of Jackson Creek. Then he established a horse ranch on the head of Rosebud Creek in the Wolf Mountains in southern Montana and kept a horseman there the year around. Bronco busters worked each winter at the home place where three to five head of Percheron stallions were wintered. At last one carload of large draft horses was trained and broken for spring sales. As soon as the Northern Pacific Railroad came west across Montana, Mr. Willits would drive the shipment herd to Rosebud Station and car them to Chicago. They were all trained to eat from nosebags and this feeding was continued on the trip east just enough to keep them used to being handled. While Mr. Willits was shipping, the hired horsemen would round up the herd at the camp and lead the stallions tied "head to tail," from Big Horn to the Rosebud ranch. Then one wagon and one man on horseback would be at Rosebud Station in time to get whatever new machines, stock, tools, goods, etc., Mr. Willits had shipped back with him in a freight car for the camp in Montana and for the home ranch. This horse routine ended when trolley cars took over in the cities in 1892.

During the 1880's Mr. Willits had taken time to serve on the school board, to be a commissioner of Johnson County, a member of the church board at Big Horn, and secretary of the ditch companies from which he acquired water rights for the new lands he had filed upon. He sang in a deep bass voice in community quartets, he always conducted family prayers at the breakfast table, and once the funeral service for a neighbor's dead baby, for which Mrs. Willits had made a casket by covering a small wooden box with soft white cloth.

To fulfill the law for a desert claim he bought water from the Big Goose and Beaver Creek ditch and constructed seven miles of ditch to carry it to his land. He realized that success in cattle meant winter feeding and that necessitated more irrigation. He began to rent the plough-lands of nearby neighbors and thus acquired grain and hay for fattening lambs. His feed lots were under the shelter of the creek bank with a gateway bridge joining the pens on each side of the creek. (Dr. Landis now uses the bridge.) Here cleared-out underbrush supplied the fences, poles, the hay feeding racks; slab troughs, that were reversible, the grain feeders that were filled by pulling a large grain hand-cart astride of them.



THE ORIENTAL HOTEL in Big Horn, built in 1883 by O. P. Hanna.

In August he would contract lambs in southern Montana that had settled up with sheep where he formerly had run his horses. These lambs cost about \$1.00 per head for December delivery. They were herded home and fattened for 13 to 14 weeks and shipped to Chicago from Sheridan where the Burlington Railroad had been since 1893. In 1898 several car loads of lambs were so excellent that Rosenbaum's Commission Company purchased them at \$5.00 a head for live overseas shipment to London markets. (No meat refrigeration was in use.)

Next Mr. Willits started scientific dry wheat farming on his higher land and put all else possible into alfalfa for cattle feed, and also secured mountain summer range from the forest reserve. His last major project was the building of an 80-acre-foot reservoir high in the Big Horn Mountains the summers of 1913-1915.

His eightieth birthday in July 1926 was celebrated by a gathering of former friends, 12 of whom had been his pioneer neighbors 45 years before.

After his death in January, 1927, it was found that his will arranged for a gift of \$3,000 to the University of Wyoming. Each year the interest from this sum is used as a first and as a second prize for an essay on an assigned ethical subject. "The Ethics of Segregation" was the topic in 1957.

He often said, "Put all you can into every young life," and "Get youth to think."

John Henry "Jack" Sackett had applied first aid and had the almost drowned child breathing before Ed Jackson got there. My father had some physicians books and U. S. Dispensatory of Medicine and some drugs, surgical knives, needles, and used nux-vomica, morphine, aconite, digitalis, carbolic acid, creosote, nitrate of silver, iodine, anti-septic cloths and dressings and set broken bones. He also used a set of apothecary scales and measures. He worked as a doctor's aid during the last of the Civil War. He treated Ed Jackson when he had been brought 50 miles after being bitten on the hand by a large rattlesnake.

John Henry Sackett, as an unregistered veterinarian, had charge of Wallop's fine horses until he died in December of 1893. Sackett had extra-size book on the subjects and did much frontier help for the sick and injured.

Mr. Wallop and Mr. William Moncreiffe signed my bond as business manager of the Lantern, Ohio State University newspaper.—C.L.S.

Mr. Oliver Henry Wallop

KENNETH McHENRY

Mr. Oliver Henry Wallop was born at Eggesford, North Devonshire, England in 1861. He was the second son of the fifth Earl of Portsmouth and Lady Eveline Herbert.

Just after his graduation from Oxford University in 1883, Mr. Wallop came to America. He was at Miles City, Montana and was briefly at the Bitter Creek Ranch near Morehead before he purchased a horse ranch on Otter Creek where he raised thoroughbred horses.

When delivering horses to a buyer in northern Wyoming, Mr. Wallop felt the charm of this region and in 1891 purchased the 160 acre homestead of Oliver Perry Hanna. For four years Mr. Wallop trained tandem teams which he shipped east after the C. B. & Q. railroad came to Sheridan. In 1895 Mr. Wallop sold the Hanna land and purchased the "Bear" Davis ranch that he called "Canyon Ranch."

In 1897 Miss Marguerite Walker of Chicago became Mrs. Wallop. Their sons are Gerard Vernon (ninth Earl of Portsmouth) and Oliver Malcolm Wallop of Canyon Ranch.

During the Boer War Mr. Wallop was associated with the Moncreiffe Brothers in supplying, training and shipping British Cavalry horses.

In 1904 Mr. Wallop became a citizen of the United States. In 1908 he was elected to the Wyoming Legislature where he worked ardently and introduced our first game laws.

Mr. Wallop enlarged the Canyon Ranch by buying adjoining homesteads when their owners wished to sell.

The death of Mr. Wallop's older brother made it necessary for him to assume the Earldom in 1925. This he did reluctantly.

Mrs. Wallop died May 8, 1935. Mr. Wallop died April, 1943.

When letters written by Mr. Wallop from England were published in our county papers they always expressed his keen love for Little Goose Valley and his kind and understanding neighborliness. No one ever wrote such beautiful tributes as Mr. Wallop did to his friends.

Mr. Oliver Malcolm Wallop presented Big Horn school library with some 500 books from his parents' residence. Also he gave us a rare collection of photographs of art treasures and historic places that had been collected by his mother, Miss Marguerite Walker, when she was a girl traveling in Europe, years before she dreamed of becoming Lady Portsmouth.

Malcolm Moncreiffe

VIRGINIA SCHRATER

Mr. Malcolm Moncreiffe was born in 1866 near Perth, Scotland. He was the 15th of 16 children born to Sir Thomas Moncreiffe and Lady Louisa Hay Moncreiffe. He went to work in London for a relative at the age of 17, but disliked the office work and at the invitation of Frederick Bennett, a friend, set out for the New World and adventure in the West. He came to Miles City, Montana, and then went to the country 60 miles north of Gillette. There he was in the cattle business until 1898.

He then moved to Big Horn, where he went into a partnership in ranching with his brother, William Moncreiffe. Their ranch was what is now the Gallatin and Brinton ranches.

During the Boer War in South Africa, Moncreiffe Brothers and Mr. O. H. Wallop furnished many horses to the British cavalry.

Mr. Malcolm Moncreiffe also acquired that land which is now the "Polo Ranch."

He married Miss Amy Walker, of Chicago in 1901. The wedding was in England. Mr. and Mrs. Moncreiffe then built their residence on the Polo Ranch southwest of Big Horn.

He purchased in conjunction with his brother, William, and Robert H. Walsh, the First National Bank of Sheridan from John B. Kendrick. Mr. Moncreiffe served for many years as vice president and later became a lifetime director of the bank.

Mr. Moncreiffe was very instrumental in bringing polo to the community. Not only was he an excellent horseman, but a very good polo player. He played an active part in the game even to the later years of his life.

In 1908 he purchased his first range sheep, and soon 50 head of registered Hampshire rams. So began his famous sheep business.

In 1919 he purchased registered New Hampshire ewes. His first imported ram came from England. The foundation stock for his later well-known Corriedale flock came from New Zealand.

Mr. Moncreiffe was keenly interested in the agricultural activities in the community. He contributed valuable registered sheep as prizes to 4-H boys and girls doing outstanding work in livestock projects.

The Moncreiffe flock of registered Corriedales and of New Hampshires was well known not only in the United States, but in many foreign lands as well. It was the pride of breeders every-

where to use Polo Ranch sheep for foundation stock because Polo Ranch registered sheep won laurels at many major livestock exhibitions.

Mr. Moncreiffe retired from ranching in 1945, after selling his sheep by a private sale. He remained at the Polo Ranch until his death June 14, 1948.

Since Mrs. Moncreiffe's death in 1955, the "Polo Ranch," owned by Mr. O. M. Wallop, is managed by T. K. Schrater whose family lives in the ranch house, while Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Wallop reside in the former Moncreiffe home. It is indeed a fitting tribute that the ski hill above Red Grade on land that was Mr. Moncreiffe's mountain pasture is now publicly spoken of as "Moncreiffe Hill."

(This information was given to me by John Ruzicka, Jr., and from The Sheridan Press.)



HILMAN DUDE RANCH HOUSE—First dude ranch house in Wyoming, built in 1890 by J. W. Austin. Small house in rear first guest house, 1889 (paying guests, that is.) Picture taken in 1891. People in picture: Dan Hilman, Fred Hilman, Bill Eckerson, Capt. Stockwell, Mike Evans. (Picture courtesy of Hilman family.)

Mr. William Moncreiffe

CHARLES STEVENS

Mr. William Moncreiffe was born January 19, 1863 in Perthshire, Scotland. He was graduated from Cambridge University in 1885. After a trip around the world he came in 1888 to visit his brother Malcolm in what was then Crook County, Wyoming. Afterwards he came to Little Goose valley to visit Mr. O. H. Wallop and in a conversation with Mrs. D. T. Hilman expressed a desire to purchase a home here. His wish was fulfilled when the Charlie Becker family, who had purchased Richard F. Clark's (Mrs. Warren Austin's mother's) ranch, decided to sell to him and he also acquired the homestead filings on Trabing Creek and Kemp Creek flats. With his brother Malcolm who soon came as a partner they built their residence (now Miss Brinton's) and laid out the tree-lined avenue leading to it. They produced quantities of hay and purchased pasture for summer range for cattle on Dutch Creek and elsewhere.

Soon after serving in the Spanish-American War as a private, Mr. William Moncreiffe and Mr. Malcolm Moncreiffe and Mr. Wallop took a contract to furnish British Cavalry horses for the Boer War in South Africa. They delivered 22,500 head of halter-broke, saddle-broke mounts. This activity employed all local as well as many imported experienced riders.

Mr. Moncreiffe's kindness to his employees was remarkable. He encouraged their loyalty in service by annually branding each a few head of cattle. Several whom he especially appreciated, he set up in their own businesses. One year at the school he gave a Christmas tree with personal gifts for every child in the district. Another year, the same sort of party was at the church and included the grown-ups as well as the children.

He brought from Scotland Miss Mary Smith, an aged nurse of his childhood, and also her younger sister to care for her until her death in 1908.

In 1909 he married Miss Edith Boyd of Torquay, England.

Now their lands are Mr. Goelet Gallatin's, Mr. Allen Fordyce's and Miss Brinton's. After living in retirement in Nice, France, Mr. and Mrs. William Moncreiffe returned during World War II. Mr. Moncreiffe died May 30, 1944 in California. Mrs. Moncreiffe died December 21, 1957 in France.

The Sackett brothers with Roger Williams in the early 1600's graduated from Cambridge and came together in a ship Lyon to New England in 1663.—C.L.S.

The Austin Family

(Told by Madge Austin Wade)

MARY HENRY

Mr. John Warren Austin was born in Monkton, Vermont, March 2, 1850. The year he was 16 he had lived in Iowa. Then Kansas had been his home, where on April 1, 1874, at Cedarville, he had married Anna Fordice.

In September of 1880 with their son Myron, and their baby daughter Madge, they drove to Tie Siding in Wyoming Territory and spent the winter.

The next summer Mrs. Austin's mother and stepfather (Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Clark) with Mrs. Clark's sons, John and Arthur Fordice, joined them, and they drove their wagons to the northern part of Johnson County where they filed on claims on the east side of Little Goose Creek downstream adjoining Bear Davis. The ditch Mr. Austin made to irrigate the land was named for him. These claims became portions of the Wallop ranch and of the William Moncreiffe home which now (1958) belongs to Miss Helen Brinton. The Fordice brothers each took homesteads near the foothills and later sold to adjoining owners.

While the Austins were living on their ranch, a baby boy born to them died within a few months and was buried nearby.

Soon after they came, Mr. Austin found a bag of U. S. Army blacksmith tools under water at a ford on Little Goose Creek just upstream from the present county bridge near the Gallatin ranch house. General Crook's camp had been above there in June, 1876. Also Mr. Austin found two partially washed-out graves. He made wooden boxes and reburied the bodies on higher ground.

As Mr. Austin was a carpenter, he became the foremost builder in the growing community. Assisted by Mr. Benefield (brother of Filmore Benefield and of Mrs. J. T. Wolf) Mr. Austin built the Sackett & Skinner buildings in Big Horn; the hotel; the first frame school house; the Lone Star school, etc. Also he made the few needed caskets or "coffins" for the burial of the dead. His building knowledge was very useful to the first school board of which he was a member. (Mr. Austin and Mr. Benefield, wearing carpenter aprons, appear in the photographs of the Sackett & Skinner store taken in 1882.)

Madge Austin attended Lone Star school from the age of five years until the family moved to Sheridan in 1892. She recalls her father having walked from their ranch to Sheridan in the winter

time to secure some needed trimming for a casket he was making. The event was impressed on her memory by the fact of his long beard becoming iced and her mother using warm water to thaw it out upon his arrival home.

In 1892 Mr. Austin with his family moved to Sheridan where he continued to work at his trade and built his home at 342 Gladstone Street. Here a daughter, Ava, was born. Mrs. Austin died in 1896. Mrs. Wade emphasizes the fact that her father used a factory coffin for her mother's burial.

Myron finished his schooling in Sheridan, married Nellie Robinson, and became a rancher near Shell, where with them his grandmother, Mrs. Clark, spent her widowhood. John Fordice, although he died at Hardin, was buried near his mother at Shell. Arthur had died while the family still resided in Sheridan County. Myron was a prominent citizen and represented his county in the state legislature.

Madge was her father's housekeeper and cared for Ava until Mr. Austin in 1901 married Miss Margaret Van Slyke. After graduation from Sheridan High School, Madge trained as a nurse. Mrs. Wade followed that profession over 30 years. Since her retirement she lives near her grandchildren.

Mr. Austin lived to be 92 years of age. After the death of the second Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Wade and Ava (Mrs. Glen C. Belt, Whittier, California) gave the large collection of family books to the Big Horn school in 1946.

Austin had a registered (purebred) Hambletonian stallion.

Myron Austin was a schoolmate of Carl Sackett from 1882 until the Austins moved to Sheridan.—C.L.S.

The Dow Family

LINDA HARRIS

It may be said, and unquestionably so, that the Dow family has been a great cornerstone in the settling of our beautiful Northern Wyoming area.

Mrs. Jack Dow, Helen Cuthbertson, was born in Scotland on April 12, 1847. Her father, William Cuthbertson, and mother, Helen Simington, were parents of eight children.

At the age of twenty-five, Miss Cuthbertson accompanied a brother to America where they joined a second brother in Colorado. It was there that she met Mr. Dow whom she married two years later.

Jack Dow, "a man of fine calibre and genius," born in 1837 in Wisconsin, was also of Scottish descent. He grew up in Wisconsin and attended the University at Madison. He graduated, a civil engineer, and practiced in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and became Larimer County surveyor in Colorado.

After six years of pioneering in Colorado, the Dows set out in search of a new homestead in Wyoming.

Mrs. Dow drove three horses abreast, hitched to a light wagon containing her household goods. The couple, awed by the view of the beautiful valley of the Little Goose Creek knew it was their chosen land. They filed on a section of land which they made into a horticultural show-place. The Dows were the first to plant an orchard successfully, to raise apples, cherries, pears and plums.

Mr. Dow, still following his profession, engineered Tunnel Hill. Before this tunnel was dug, a vast area southeast of Sheridan was a "second cousin to Fremont's Great American Desert." The only survivors of this "miniature Sahara" were prairie dogs, for which the valley was named. Mr. Dow's "vision" turned Prairie Dog into a beautiful fertile valley. "It has been made to bloom like a rose."

Others of his accomplishments were the platting of Sheridan and Big Horn and almost all of the country roads and ditches as the settlers increased.

Mrs. Dow, still childless, was left alone during Mr. Dow's absences; she therefore looked after management of the ranch. A sister, Mrs. Lothian, died, leaving to Mrs. Dow's care three nieces and a nephew. The nephew, Bert, later took the name as did Benitta Dow (Mrs. E. S. Townsend).

Mr. Dow died November 3, 1904, leaving behind him Tunnel

Hill, the fertile Prairie Dog valley, Sheridan and Big Horn, all as magnificent monuments to "a man of clear vision, untiring industry and unselfish zeal."

Mrs. Dow continued to rear her nieces and nephew. She always voted and attended school meetings. She participated in county fairs and the Woman's Club. She was very active in the Missionary Society of the Big Horn Church.

Mrs. Dow died February 9, 1933. "She looketh well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness, and her own works praise her."

The Dow ranch continued on under the management of Bert Dow. Bert's early education was in local schools, from which he attended college at Laramie. He completed his studies at the university and came back to manage the 1280 acre Dow Ranch. Bert Dow was the first successfully to raise angus cattle in this area.

On November 17, 1921, Miss Emma Urbanosovsky, Czechoslovakian born, became Mrs. Bert Dow. They had four children: daughters Elizabeth, now Mrs. Frank T. Hager, and Mary, now Mrs. Andrew Long, and two sons, Jack C. who married Dorothy Smith, and Alan L. who married Stella Jurosek. Each of the four is a graduate of Big Horn High School.

Mrs. Dow died on September 7, 1950. Mr. Dow followed her four years later on October 4.

The eldest son, Jack C. Dow is now engaged in the operation of the home ranch. He was born April 8, 1924. He married Dorothy Smith on October 8, 1946. Mr. Dow has been connected in stock raising of Wyoming throughout his entire career, except for two years spent in the Army during World War II.

Mr. and Mrs. Dow have two children, Bertie and Jack, who will undoubtedly carry on the proud name of Dow.

Manning had a fine orchard on Beaver Creek and sold apples about the same time as Dow.

Dow ran the survey line for the Sackett and Skinner places, and also for the East Side and West Side Ditches, as well as the Last Chance Ditch and Paralta Ditch.—C.L.S.

Mr. Lemuel E. Martin

LONA MARTIN HELVEY

Lemuel Emery Martin, son of Robert Allen Martin and Catharine Emery Martin, was born June 17, 1857 on a farm in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, near Jersey Shore. With his cousin, Judson Stout, he left home in 1871 when he was 14 years of age. They went to Minneapolis, Ottawa County, Kansas, where they worked in wheat fields from daylight until dark shocking grain for \$12.00 a month. I have several letters written by my father L. E. Martin.

From November 1878 to March 1881 father described the people, country, climate, etc. He spoke of 7000 emigrants passing through Kansas City in a two-day period looking for locations in Kansas, wheat worth 70 cents a bushel and corn 25 cents. From Kansas the two cousins went to Cripple Creek, Colorado, during the mining boom and then on to Longmont and to Boulder.

Father met Captain C. M. Tyler in Boulder and they became good friends. Captain Tyler had mining and agricultural interests in Colorado and Wyoming which he wished to develop and asked father to go to Wyoming.

Captain Tyler formed a company known as the Colorado Colony Ditch Cmpany with Mr. J. W. Denio, Mr. John Barr, Mr. Thomas Williams of Boulder, Longmont, and Denver, Colorado. They asked father to develop the land which comprised around 10,000 acres. He was outfitted in Boulder with mule teams, five prairie schooners loaded with men and equipment. (I have a picture taken of Cheyenne, July 1884, which father sent back to Pennsylvania to an Uncle John Martin from Big Horn City, Wyoming Territory. John Martin's granddaughter, Marian Martin Blackwell, gave it to me when she and her husband came through Sheridan, 1957, on their way to the park.)

Father fenced the land, built the Colorado Ditch, which he later enlarged after he built the Big Horn Reservoir. He also built the Martin and the Granger and the Kearney Lake reservoirs in the Big Horn Mountains. He was always very much interested in irrigation and getting water on the land. He was facetiously spoken of by mother's relatives in Iowa as having "water on the brain."

Lemuel Emery Martin and Minnetta (Minnie) Esther Jackson were married February 16, 1888, by Reverend Samuel J. Jennings at the W. E. Jackson homestead in the house where our son R. E. Helvey and his family now live.

Father, mother and Mr. Barr lived for several years where

I was born in what is now known as the Harvey W. Rhoads house, that had been built by the company. Then father and mother moved back to Big Horn where he built the frame house south of the brick house at the foot of the "college" hill. He built the brick house where my brother Edward (Lemuel Edward Martin, No. 8, El Sereno Road, Orinda, California) was born.

Father bought the A. Zullig homestead northwest of the present school house. After he built the house on that land, he sold it and bought one-half mile north of C. W. Skinner the Val Reece ranch, which he still owned when he passed away June 10, 1926.

After the death of Captain Tyler in 1886 the Colorado Colony land was not developed. J. D. Denio came into possession of the Denio ranch and Mr. Denio started a flour mill.

After father's having had the farm land rented and having worked in other projects, he was still interested in the Colorado Colony land and arranged its sale to Mr. Verner Z. Reed of Denver who changed the name to the Sheridan Land and Irrigation Company. Part of the 20 units into which the land was divided are in Big Horn school district and are now owned by parents whose children attend Big Horn school.

Later when my husband, R. T. Helvey, was ranch superintendent the name was changed to the Wyoming Securities Company and the Reed residence was purchased by the State of Wyoming for Wyoming Girls' School that was opened in 1925.

When we, the Martins, were living at the Val Reece ranch, mother served on the Big Horn school board. She was appointed the first superintendent of the Wyoming Girls' School which during the 24 years of service she built into a nationally recognized model institution of its type. The gratitude and the affection of the lives she influenced is expressed in the numerous messages to "Mother Martin" that come to her at her residence, 240 Coffeen Ave., Sheridan, where she lives in retirement at 88 years of age.

Mr. Martin was a very courteous and considerate gentleman. He was a good singer and played the organ well, helping in entertainments.—C.L.S.

The Spear Family

(Information from Jessamine Spear Johnson
and Elsa Spear Byron)

JUDY MOORE

Willis Bradford Spear, a descendant of Governor William Bradford, who came on the Mayflower, was born in Chautauqua County, New York, January 12, 1824. With his parents he moved to Ohio and to Indiana. Later he worked on a boat down the Mississippi River to New Orleans where he joined the army under General Winfield Scott and served in the Mexican War. In 1849 he was in California as captain of a boat between Oakland and San Francisco where "Spear Street" was named for him. In October of 1853 he was back in Indiana and, at Nile, Michigan, married Mrs. Jane Ferguson Wood, a widow who had a son Makinley Wood and a daughter Miss Lorinda Wood.

The Spear family started West. They lived in Iowa and in Missouri. By 1874, the Wood children had homes of their own and there were six Spear children. The Spear family joined a wagon train to Evanston, Wyoming Territory. The next year, 1875, they moved to Phillipsburg, Montana Territory and spent about eight years to the north around New Chicago where, while doing carpenter work and working his teams, Mr. Spear proved up on a homestead.

Mrs. Spear operated a hotel owned by her brother William Ferguson. The son Willis Moses on horseback carried mail over a lonely route. When the three oldest Spear children were married, the parents with the three youngest moved to Little Goose valley, herding their stock with them.

In 1883 Mr. and Mrs. Willis B. Spear ("Grandpa and Grandma Spear") bought the land claimed by the carpenter Benefield. (Now owned by Mrs. H. C. Stevens and Mr. John S. Barovitch.) The daughter, Miss Emily Spear, was married in 1885 by Elder Benton to Mr. John DeWitt, a jeweler, and moved away. The sons, Willis Moses (W. M.) and Hulett William ("Doc"), used the cattle they had brought as the foundation of an extensive "Spear Brothers" cattle business that by 1896 reached across northern Wyoming and southern Montana from the Powder River to the Big Horn River. Willis added to the Benton land eastward until it reached the

Grandpa Spear's maiden sister, Miss Hannah Spear, came to live with her brother and sister-in-law. She made the front yard present State Bird Farm on Cruse Creek.

into a flower garden, and it was she who scattered the seeds of the purple rocket mustard that brightens the road-side brush patches in June. "Grandma and Grandpa and Aunt Hannah Spear" spent their declining years in Billings near the daughter Mary (Mrs. Paul McCormick, Sr.) "Grandpa Spear" was the last of the trio to live and at 97 years of age returned to die in 1921 at "Doc's" home.

The parents' land became "Doc's." He and his wife, Daisy Lewis, lived there until their business interests called them away.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Spear had four children born at the ranch. They were Sylvia Jessamine (1886); Willis Benton (1888) Phillip Torrey (1892) and Elsa Hannah (1896). The three older children began school at Lone Star and also attended Big Horn until 1902.

The family plans for their own children's happiness always included the community youth of the same ages. There were always a skating pond with a bonfire, apples for Hallowe'en parties, ice in the ice house for summer treats with luscious blackberries and raspberries, all sorts of games and music. How young people loved to hear Mr. Spear sing as he played his own banjo or guitar! Mrs. Spear made all comers feel welcome so that no youth ever appreciated at the time all she was doing for him.

After there were grandchildren in the family, Mr. Spear began to raise Shetland ponies so that he could give one to each child. This kindness extended to more distant relatives and to the children of friends.

His dreams included the landscaping of some five acres by his house. He had planned to build near the center a huge hall with a pipe organ. Here he envisioned future generations would assemble for family reunions. As a start, Mr. Spear had built a series of ponds along the creek.

Although recent owners have not known his dreams, those ponds remain and serve to perpetuate his kindness to youth as the present generation is invited by the owner, Mrs. Robert Wood, to skate or swim there.

Mrs. Spear died November 30, 1930. Mr. Spear died October 11, 1936.

His active life, his broad hospitality is summed up in these lines by a guest, Badger Clark:

"There is a man that I know
Who never rests a bit.
He owns a half a state or so
and lives all over it.

But happy is his flying guest
 To scoot across the land
 Beside two hundred pounds of West,
 The hearty old time brand."

* * *

Clipping not dated:

W. M. SPEAR EARLY STOCKMAN,
 ARRIVED HERE JUST 50 YEARS AGO

Former State Senator
 Has Had Varied
 Life.

Mr. Spear left for Sheridan from New Chicago on August 2, 1883, his twenty-first birthday. The overland train consisted of 24 people, five wagons, three buggies, 100 head of horses and 80 head of cattle. The party made 10 miles the first day.

Sept. 19—Some of the cattle strayed into the brush in the night, so two of us stayed back to hunt for them. Found them all finally in the evening. We got to camp a short time before midnight. We are four miles from Custer's battleground. We can see his monument from camp.

Sept. 20—We passed where they are building the new Crow Indian agency. The superintendent of the reservation came up and made us pay 10 cents a head for the loose stock, which is the toll charge for crossing the reservation. Spent the forenoon visiting the Custer Battlefield. The monument is erected near where he fell and the bones of private soldiers were buried under the monument. Three days after the fight in 1876, seven years ago, the officers were buried in separate shallow graves and the soldiers were put in shallow trenches, and some that lay away from where the main fight took place were covered only by sagebrush. All of the dead were not found at this time, for out of the 224 men with Custer only 204 were buried. The body of Kellogg, the newspaper correspondent, was discovered some time later, lying near the head of a gulch about a mile away from the battlefield, and it was found that the coyotes had dug up a great number of the soldiers bones and scattered them around. Their bones were still lying scattered in every direction and we picked up lots of cartridges and some pieces of monument, which had been chipped off when setting it up. We camped 10 miles above on the Little Horn.

Sept. 21—Moved 15 miles crossed Rotten Grass (Lodge Grass)

Creek and camped on Pass Creek. They both help form the Little Horn.

Sept. 22—Traveled all day up Pass Creek. Found plenty of wild plums and some of the folks got too many for their good health.

Sept. 23—Camped at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains on Tongue River, after moving 15 miles today.

Sept. 24—Moved about 20 miles today to Sheridan, Wyo., which is situated at the junction of Little and Big Goose Creeks. Our journey ends here.

I make reference to Hulett William "Doc" Spear on page 68. "Doc" played marbles with me when he attended school at Big Horn and won all of my marbles. Willis Moser (W. M.) Spear gave a Shetland pony to Hugh O. (Pete) Sackett.—C.L.S.

The Benton Family

(Information from Roy Benton,

Mrs. Fred Given and Mrs. Wm. V. Johnson)

PETER GENEREAUX

Mr. George Washington Benton, a descendant of Roger Williams, came to Wyoming Territory in 1881 from Smith County, Kansas, where with his family he had organized several Baptist churches.

Mr. Benton was born in 1824 at Heath, Massachusetts. On December 27 in 1849 at Cumberland Hill, Rhode Island, he had married his second wife, Hannah Torrey, who was born in 1823 at Sutton, Massachusetts and who was a descendant of Richard Warren and Francis Cooke of the Mayflower. As an ordained minister of the Missionary Baptists of Boston, George had studied homeopathic medicine and pioneered in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas.

When Elder and Mrs. Benton arrived in Little Goose valley September 14, the following members of their family were with them:

John Sumner Benton, who had been born in Dickson, Illinois, in 1850, an invalid from asthma, had left his family in Kansas where he had homesteaded and had come seeking health which he found.

Gazelle (Mrs. Albert Stevenson) who had been born in Sunbury, Illinois, in 1859, came ahead of her husband and brought their daughters, Alice and Emily, and a niece, Nora, daughter of Frank Benton, who had gone out the Oregon Trail while the others stopped near Laramie and then came back from the north in the autumn.

Virginia Blue Belle, who had been born at Berlin, Wisconsin, in 1863, kept a diary much of which has been preserved. It was written mostly on the inside of a split-open envelopes.

This diary states that while the family were camped from September 7 to 13 "past Lake DeSmet at the Sturgis ranch (Buttermilk Sturgis) on Shell Creek, while we were spending the evening with the Sturgis' family, Miss Lidas Davis, Miss Burgess and Mr. Babcock came to ask Miss Sturgis to go to a dance at Sonnesbergers. . . . Father and John went to Big Piney to look for a ranch . . . Miss Davis, Miss Burgess, Mr. Snider and another man rode past on their way to Big Horn. Pa and John went to Goose Creek, I kept the mules from straying and killed a rattlesnake.



BENTON FAMILY—Elder and Mrs. George W. Benton.

. . . Oliver Hanna called at Sturgis. . . . Father and John came back and Mr. Wolfe came with them to see the harness, wagon, and the white mules, Sam and Sue, which Father is trading for 160 acres on Little Goose Creek, 11½ miles above Big Horn. Sept. 14th we left Shell Creek. . . . Came by way of Meade's cut-off to Little Goose Creek and saw our new home in all the glory of autumn tints in the leaves of the wild plum and chokecherries, cottonwood, quaking asp, birch and willow. We are content with the two-room cabin for a haven of rest after three months of camping, although doorways and window openings have to be covered with blankets and sheets. Doors and windows cannot be gotten short of Cheyenne or Laramie. Sept. 15 they set the stakes around the claim. . . . Gazelle got a small pail full of plums. I saw three snakes . . . put up John's stove. Sept. 16 Gazelle and I went berrying and got some plums, black and yellow currants, and chokecherries . . . Pa went to the P.O. and Mr. Martin (or Buckskin) wanted him to go and see a man 82 years old who had broken his leg. Sept. 17 Pa went to see Mr. Brennan. . . . Mr. Jackson's boy came by to show some trout he had caught. Sept. 18, Sun. at 3 o'clock Pa preached at Mr. Thompson's. (The Thompson family were living in Mr. Hanna's cabin.) Mrs. Clark came down and all went to meeting but Mother, Nora, Emily and I. Sept. 19th we stretched the tent over the roof of the south room and moved in. Sept. 20th they finished putting the roof on the north room and went after lime. I washed in the forenoon and in the afternoon made the flounce on mother's dress. Mrs. Jackson came on horseback and called on us. Sept. 21 we found some bear tracks. Pa finished the table before breakfast. John filled up some of the cracks and put a lot of dirt on the roof. I fixed my velvet sacque and felt hat. Sept. 23 Gazelle and I gathered more plums. Father cut the door through the partition into the north room. Mrs. Wolfe and I went up to Davis' on horseback for some onions. Mrs. Davis came down on horseback. It rained. Sept. 24th cold and windy. They muddled up the sides of the north room. We ironed.

Sept. 25 last night a skunk got into the kitchen under the stove and Pa lighted him out with a torch. It rained and snowed all day. . . . In the evening we had some singing. . . . Sept. 29th cold and rainy. Mr. Wolfe and Filmore Benefield came to dig potatoes. John and Pa killed 20 ducks and John took three over to Mrs. Wolfe. They sold a cow and calf to John for \$35.00. Sept. 30th. We bought 900 lbs. of potatoes at 3¢ per lb. amounting to \$27. Oct. 1st . . . Mr. Willits came to get John to go to Cheyenne with his two span of mules. Oct. 2 Sunday afternoon Pa went over

to Mr. Wolfe's and borrowed a paper containing the account of President Garfield's death and Arthur's inuguration. Afternoon, Father, Mother, John and I went to meeting at Mr. Thompson's. Mr. Wolfe and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Willits and 2 children, Mrs. Jackson, Miss Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Davis with May and Lida, Gale Grinnell and brother, and several others I did not know were there. Mr. and Mrs. C. stopped here on their way home and borrowed Rose Thorpe's "Ambition." . . . Oct. 4th. Mr. Willits came over to change the program and just take the mules. Oct. 5th Pa went to hunt the little mules—went into Mr. Hurlbut's a few moments. Mr. Welch came to sell use some meat. We bought 25 lbs. \$1.00. A man came to get John to go to Thompson's to help thrash. Pa went too. Oct. 7. Pa and I started . . . Oct 9th. We went to the Fort . . . They had dress parade and 13 cannons in honor of Pres. Garfield and firing of the cannons every half hour. . . . Oct. 11th. We came home. A letter from Frank had come. Oct. 12th Mr. Wolfe came and had a tooth pulled. Snowy. Mr. Mock came to get Father to preach a funeral sermon for Mrs. Mock on Tongue River. Frank came. Oct. 14th. John and Frank went to Willits and Clarks."

(Condensed from the form in which this part was printed in The Sheridan Press, May 16, 1937.)

Elder and Mrs. Benton spent the rest of their lives where they had begun their Wyoming home.

On Nov. 18, 1885 Elder Benton gave his daughter in marriage to Willis Moses Spear. In performing the ceremony himself he used his natural poetic vocabulary, saying, "We entrust our beautiful, dainty Virginia Blue Belle to this handsome, stalwart Spear." Willis built his house in the Benton yard, bought the land and added adjoining claims to the east to form the "Spear Ranch."

February 4, 1895 Mr. Benton died of pneumonia that he contracted returning home in a blizzard after spending three days and nights nursing Mr. Charles Bard during a serious attack of pneumonia. Mrs. Benton died in January 1898.

Mr. Albert Stevenson joined his wife Gazelle and little daughters. They lived in varied locations on ranches and had five more children. Mrs. Stevenson would drive miles to bring her children to Sunday School. She often taught a class and was a leader in the music, singing a deep alto and playing the old reed organ. That their children might attend Big Horn school they built the log house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Moore. While living there, Mr. Stevenson was killed in a cave-in of a coal mine Jan. 11, 1897.

Alice Stevenson became Mrs. Will Lewis. Emily Stevenson

became Mrs. Arthur Schneider. She died in December 1946.

John S. Benton with his brother Frank lived on upper Jackson Creek for several years. John's health improved so they sent for their families. Frank's daughter Nora had attended the first Lone Star school with John's children before Frank moved his family toward Beckton. Nora died in 1890 and was buried in the Big Horn Cemetery.

Martha Charlotte Haire was born in Grant County, Wisconsin, in 1847. While homesteading in Smith County, Kansas in 1878 she had married John S. Benton. With their sons, Earl and Roy, Martha Benton came on the train to Rock River, Wyoming, where John drove a pony team and a spring wagon 265 miles to meet them in the summer of 1883. At the first camp Roy fell in a bed of prickly pear cactus and the team wandered away in the night. John started on foot to hunt the team. Martha, who was very timid, saw two horsemen coming. She feared they were Indians. but they were cowboys who helped John find his ponies.

On Jackson Creek, John ran a few cattle and soon bought a 160 acres from Mr. John W. Price who had homesteaded on White Creek, the tributary of Hanna Creek that has continued to be the Benton ranch. Mrs. Benton took a desert claim of 240 acres on Jackson Creek. Her sister, Emma Haire, had a near-by timber claim of 120 acres.

They milked cows, raised chickens, and took butter and eggs to Fort McKinney near Buffalo, 40 miles away. Sometimes in hot weather, John traveled part of the night. On the return trips, along the road side, John would pick up beer bottles that Martha would use to can service berries by sealing the cork with melted pine pitch. Also she would drop a hot iron ring over a bottle neck to break it off smoothly then file the glass edge gently to turn it into a useful container for wild fruit, jellies and jams.

A daughter Stella was born in the Wyoming home. The boys and later Stella attended the Lone Star and the Big Horn school. The ranch supported a fine herd of cattle that in after years were grazed in summer on the Big Horn Forest.

Mr. John S. Benton died in February 1925. His neighbor, Mr. Oliver Henry Wallop, wrote for the Sheridan Post-Enterprise on February 18, 1925, the following:

In Memoriam, Johannis Seymes Benton
Obiit die Septimo Mensis Februarii (1925)

Last Thursday, February 12th, a large number of the old-timers and residents of Sheridan County met at the Methodist Church at Big Horn to say a last goodbye to John Benton, one of

the earliest settlers of the county, and a remarkable man. The epithet, in view of his quiet and unostentitious life, may seem extravagant, but a few words of explanation will convince all of its truth.

At his funeral the Reverend Blackledge told of his services to the church, and how he fulfilled his duty to God, "to worship Him to give Him thanks and to serve Him truly all the days of his life." To this I will add how he fulfilled his duty towards his neighbor—"to hurt nobody by word or deed, to be true and just in all his dealings, to bear no malice and hatred in his heart." Truly he fulfilled that duty.

During the forty years that I knew him, I never heard anyone question his honour, nor did I ever hear him say one single hard word of anyone. Envy, hatred and malice left no smirch on his white soul. I never saw him cross or despondent in difficult days. Everyone loved and respected him and, as he never said a word against others, so was it meted out to him in return.

Just before the funeral I met an old friend who had lived for many years his next door neighbor, who said to me, "No man ever was a better, kinder, or more helpful neighbor than Johnny Benton—you could not beat him."

Is it not a very great thing for a man on his deathbed to leave, apart from all worldly goods, such comforting memory of good works, of charity and good will, to all who knew him? And that is why I have deemed him remarkable.

As I looked on his serene face, I knew death had held for him no grisly terrors, but had come as the Angel of Peace. And the truth of those simple lines flashed across me,

Life I know not what thou art
But I know that we must part.

* * *

Life we have been long together
Through pleasant and through
cloudy weather—

'Tis hard to part when friends are dear
Perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear;
Then steal away, give little warning
Choose thine own time
Say not good night—but in some brighter
clime

Bid me good morning,
And so it befell him. God rest
his kindly soul.

—O. H. W.



BIG HORN CITY—March 1884. Note "Nigger John's dug-out." The door to the dug-out is located where the two arrows converge. (Picture courtesy of Skinner family.)

Earl Benton and his family live in Eugene, Oregon. Roy, who has served on the Big Horn school board several terms, has lived continuously on the Benton ranch. Stella (Mrs. Fred Given) now resides at Dayton.

Mrs. John Benton died on November 10, 1945 at the advanced age of 98 years.

I make reference to the picture on page 76 of "Nigger John's Dugout." The dugout was that of Dutch Jake, a trapper who told stories to children by his fireplace and where Maynard (father of Mrs. Woodley) later lived. Harry Burgess and I examined "Nigger John's Dugout" after the top had fallen in and the cabin and shop had been removed. We found hidden large cans off the edge of the roof.

The sink in the lower corner was the cellar under Nigger John's cabin and horse-shoeing shop.—C.L.S.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Wagner and the Burgess Family

KAREN GARBER

In the summer of 1881 there came to Big Horn, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Wagner and the Burgess children. They had spent some months moving from Austin (near Carson City), Nevada, where Mr. Wagner and his mining partner Mr. Burgess had operated a gold mine. Mr. Burgess had been a member of the Nevada Legislature prior to his death in a mine accident in 1879. A few years later the widow Burgess and Mr. Jake Wagner had been married. "Harry," who became Judge James Henry Burgess, said of his stepfather, "Jake had great courage to marry a widow with five children and he was always as kind to us as our own father could have been."

Mr. Wagner brought with him a 40-horsepower steam saw mill that he set up at first on the north fork of Crazy Woman Creek and again on Piney Creek during the summer. He filed on land just north of the Big Horn townsite (today the south forty belongs to LeRoy Sackett, the north forty to Mr. W. W. DeJarnett.)

At first the family camped in cabins that were semi-dugouts in the bank of the swale directly west of the present Montana-Dakota Utilities Company's relay station. It was the former camp of the James boys who had "Negro John" there in 1889 when "Bear" Davis arrived.

After Sacketts and Skinners acquired an interest in the saw mill it was moved to Big Horn and located on the west creek bank just north of where the hotel was later built. Mr. Wagner built a large frame house and barn and fenced them with sawn boards, as the photograph of 1884 shows. The house was far the largest and nicest in the vicinity at the date it was constructed. There was soon a porch on the south and east sides. The addition on the north was built with a gable roof and utilized as kitchen, laundry, etc., that made the working space more than the modernized house now has. The large barn that burned after Mr. Wagner retired to Sheridan, had lean-to wings on both the west and the east sides and covered much more ground than the present structure. Both the barn and the house were equipped with lightning rods. Jake Wagner used the water from the "Nigger John" ditch out of Jackson Creek to make grow in his yard along the road apple trees a few of which survive, on the field side native cotton-

woods that have provided much shade but now are dying, having outlived their allotted span of 75 years.

A grandchild recalls Mr. Wagner's love for and skill in handling horses. He would hitch a gentle one with one that was not completely broken, to drive a long trip that gave the animal lots of experience even at the cost of his wife's part of the ride being nerve wracking.

Mr. Wagner filed on the 400 acres east of C. W. Skinner's land and proved it as a timber claim using Last Chance Ditch water. He served as a commissioner of Sheridan County. He had a part in all groups promoting progress such as the college and creamery.

When Mrs. Wagner interred her husband in Sheridan Cemetery she had his stone engraved "John Jacob Wagner 1845-1904. He died as he had lived, an upright honest man."

The oldest Burgess child was William who married Miss Laura Hanna, the sister who came from Illinois to keep house for her brother, O. P. Hanna. Belle Benton's diary states William Burgess and Laura Hanna were married June 1, 1884 at the Hanna cabin by G. C. Roak. They resided on Cruse Creek land acquired from Jack Coates, and when they decided to move to the Pacific Northwest they sold it to J. H. Sackett.

Sam Burgess was a cowpuncher typical of his time. He rode for exhibition before he was wagon boss for the PK ranch. Later he ran sheep near Forsythe, Montana, in partnership with his brother Harry and then did trucking in the northwest.

Ella Burgess was born in 1865 at Sacramento, California. She told her children that her mother Easter Jane Burgess (who became Mrs. Wagner) had been born in 1839 and was living in Kentucky with their father when they decided to move West. They made the journey by the ocean route. Mr. Burgess walked across the Isthmus of Panama. Mrs. Burgess stayed on the steamer and continued around Cape Horn the long route to California. There is no record of when the family was reunited in San Francisco or of Will Burgess' birth. October 1, 1884 Ella Burgess married Mr. Harrison Fulmer (1861-1922). The wedding was at the J. J. Wagner home where Reverend Probert performed the ceremony.

Mr. Fulmer, who was born in Pennsylvania, at two years of age was taken to Omaha by way of the Ohio River. Because of a distant relationship with the Patrick Brothers, he was in their employ as a boy in 1879 working on the Union Pacific Railroad. When the Patrick Brothers took over the Northwest Stagecoach line from Rock Creek, Wyoming to Custer Station, Montana, they made him a driver and later superintendent. During stage stops at Big Horn he became acquainted with Miss Burgess. After the

PK cattle company was started on Soldier Creek west of Sheridan in 1882 Mr. Fulmer was made second foreman (Tom Adams had been the first) and it was to that ranch that he took his bride. They resided there until 1903 when they moved to Sheridan where Mrs. Fulmer died in 1914. Their children are: Alice (1887); Wilbur (1889); and Harrison II (1891). (Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Fulmer II now reside two miles southwest of Big Horn on a corner of the Makinley Wood homestead.)

Louis Burgess had the management of several different farms near Big Horn before he moved to Canada about 1900.

James Henry (Harry), who was born June 16, 1876 in Austin, Nevada, was the longest of his family to attend Big Horn school and was not graduated when the college ceased to operate. He then attended at Columbus, Ohio, the Ohio State University from which he received his bachelor of arts degree on June 13, 1900 with the honor of being class president. In 1902 he received his law degree from the Ann Arbor, Michigan, law school. Upon his return to Sheridan "Harry" was elected county attorney for two terms. In 1908 he was married to Mary Helen Helvey. In 1916 he was appointed district judge which office he held for the rest of his active life (1950). In 1895 a directory of the Big Horn Congregational Church lists James Henry Burgess as clerk and also as trustee for the one-year term. How significant it is that the days of his youth showed the same devotion to his highest ideals that marked his long years of public service!

(Information secured from pioneers, newspaper clippings, photographs, Mrs. James Henry Burgess, and Mr. Harison Fulmer II.)

I was at their place many times. Mrs. Hurlbut was my first Sunday School teacher.—C.L.S.

The Custis Family

SUSAN PELISSIER

Mr. John William Custis was born in Nodaway County, Missouri, in 1853. He was of a long line of ancestors named "John Custis" and was himself in the fourth generation from Martha Custis Washington.

Mr. J. W. Custis homesteaded the land joining Mr. J. H. Sackett on the south. His original house was near the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom White. To that home Mr. Custis brought his first wife who was a charming musician. He brought to her by freight wagon a beautiful upright piano. Mrs. Gertie Custis played the accompaniment for a quartette of young married people who loved music and enjoyed entertaining at gatherings both social and religious. When Mrs. Jack Dow's sister, Mrs. Lothian, died at the birth of her son Cuthbertson Lothian (Bert L. Dow), Mr. and Mrs. Custis offered to take the baby to rear. A few months later Gertie's health became so ill that she had to give up the task and return the baby to Mrs. Dow. Gertie Custis died in 1891.

On August 27, 1893, Mr. J. W. Custis married Miss Minnie Ellen Reece, who was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James K. Reece. Minnie was born March 28, 1876 in Taylor County, Iowa. They were married by the Reverend Mr. E. D. Bostwick at the Congregational parsonage in Sheridan. The ceremony was witnessed by Alunsow M. Halbert, a Sheridan merchant, and Mabelle E. Bostwick, wife of the pastor. The Bostwicks had served the Big Horn Congregational church just before they were called to Sheridan and knew Mr. Custis well as a deacon in the Big Horn congregation and Minnie is a leader in the group of young people. They became the parents of James Oren (1894), George Washington (1896-1955), Ione Gertrude (1898, died in infancy), John Norman (1900-1955), Mary Olive (1903), Mrs. Mary Harper-Robinson, William Kenneth (1906) Big Horn, Wyoming, (Jess) Jessie Earl (1909, 580 Madeline Drive, Pasadena, California.

Mr. John Custis and his wife Minnie spent their early married years on an extended trip to Oregon. After their return to the ranch that had been rented, they built a sturdy log house near the county road. (That house is included in the present residence of the John Anderson family.)

Mr. Custis became associated with Mr. William T. Barrow, who had mining interests on Big Goose Creek in the mountains below Lake Geneva.

When Kenneth was a young child his parents sold the ranch and from Mr. John F. Lewis purchased block two of Big Horn townsite. This has ever since been the Custis family home. Jess was born there. In his youth he was the most accomplished piano player in Big Horn.

Mrs. Custis was active in the church and in the Sunday School life of her children. She worked with the Woman's Club. For many years she kept the community flower fund for the ill. It was she who administered the "funds in aid" to those who were assisted by the public. Hers was a life of service to others. Mr. Custis lived a life of devotion to the church he had joined in his young manhood. How fitting it is that their piano is used in the Club House as a gift from the Custis family! Mrs. Custis died in 1928. Mr. Custis died in 1941.

Mr. Custis had a brother Eli who was in Big Horn with him for a few years. Mr. Carl Sackett wrote: "Eli Custis worked for Sackett & Skinner. Late one night he was starting to his brother's home and was going south along the road across Little Goose Creek and on the east side of the creek, when a lynx jumped from a tree above him on his neck and would have killed him but for his high overcoat collar being turned up and bound with his scarf and the Custis' black dog helping him. Eli killed the lynx with his belt knife."

Mr. and Mrs. (Jim) James K. Reece homesteaded on Cruse Creek west of the Westgate home (Bird Farm). They had come in 1882 from Taylor County, Iowa, where they had been married March 3, 1870. Mrs. Reeces maiden name was Mary E. Fleming. (She was an aunt to Mrs. Bertha Fleming Sackett.) Mr. Reece was a large man with light hair and blue eyes. He was six feet two inches tall and had marched with "Sherman to the Sea." He was instrumental in organizing the Farmers' Grange and delighted his audiences by reciting stirring poetical selections. Mr. and Mrs. Reece, who had 12 children, had daughters older than Mrs. Custis. Some of their grandchildren were named Hough and came back to Big Horn to attend school after the Reece family built and resided in the large house south of the white church. One granddaughter, May Hough (Mrs. May H. Loughram), lived with her aunt Mrs. Custis until she finished her schooling. She has visited her Big Horn cousins in recent years. Other Reece grandchildren were in the Joe Hurst family; still others were named Tompkins. The Reece parents with their youngest children moved to the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. Jim Reece had a brother here before him. That was Mr. Valentine (Val) Reece who settled the land north of C. W. Skinner

where a family named Creighton had camped prior to 1880.

The "Val" Reece children may have attended Big Horn's early schools. Belle Benton's diary of 1884 lists the marriages of Ella and Laura; Pete Jones and Ella Reece, March 16, 1884, and Henry Schuyler and Laura Reece, September 2, 1884. The ceremonies were performed by Justice of the Peace, George Brundage. The late autumn of 1898 bugler Frank Jackson played taps over the grave of the trooper Pete Jones.

Ella, Laura and Arthur Reece went to school with me at Bgi Horn until they moved to Sheridan where Valentine Reece ran a hotel.—C.L.S.

The Hurlbut Family (First Dairy)

SHIRLEY RAE HOLMES

Mr. Edmund Hurlbut had been very dissatisfied with the East so after his marriage to Eliza Tiffany they journeyed to the West. Mr. Hurlbut traveled by an emigrant train to Bismarck, North Dakota, thence by steamboat up the Missouri and the Yellowstone Rivers to Miles City. where he unloaded his belongings.

Mrs. Hurlbut stopped in Michigan to visit with cousins while Mr. Hurlbut was deciding upon a location.

Mr. Hurlbut had been a potato farmer in New York State so he had loaded several extra barrels with potatoes and brought them with his household goods, along with his teams, ten cows, wagons and farm machinery accompanied by a hired man.

From Miles City, Mr. Hurlbut had gone south with a freighter who acted as a guide for him while he drove a wagon load of goods, and the hired man drove the cows. He was looking for a place to operate a dairy. He journeyed to Big Horn and claimed the ranch that is now (1958) the Harold Costello Ranch, at the head of Hurlbut Creek which was named for him.

Finding that the steam boats did not run after high water, Mr. Hurlbut had written his wife telling her to catch the last steam boat up the Yellowstone to Miles City.

Upon arriving in Miles City Mrs. Hurlbut instantly saw the potato barrels with her husband's name on them. They had been left on the landing by the steam boat company who had bought the potatoes from Mr. Hurlbut. Seeing the barrels had made her very homesick and she dreaded talking to anyone, so she went for a walk. After passing a long line of hitching rails, she found herself in the housing section of the town. Ahead by a little house she saw a baby washing on the line and began walking toward it. As she went closer she tried to get control of herself so as not to cry when she asked for some place to stay and wait for her husband. Nearing the house, she heard a mother singing to her child, and going to the door, Eliza saw on the step the red rag rug which she had made. She immediately sat down bursting into sobs. The woman came out and asked her what was wrong. After listening to her story the woman explained that her husband had gone with Mr. Hurlbut to search for a location for the Hurlbut's dairy. Mrs. Hurlbut was to stay there until he came back for her and the rest of their things. Both wives waited anxiously for their husbands' return. One afternoon as the women were hanging out the wash-

ing, the lady cried, "They're coming; I'm sure that's my husband's wagon." Sure enough it was.

The Hurlbuts soon packed their belongings and started for their new home near Big Horn, Wyoming. While in Big Horn, Mr. Hurlbut had begun their house. He had left the hired man to put the roof on it so that it would be nearly finished when he brought his wife.

When the first women neighbors went to call on Mrs. Hurlbut one child said, "Look, look the lady walks in the cupboard." Mr. Hurlbut had built a nice pantry equipped with many narrow shelves to set the shallow pans of milk on to cool while the cream rose. He also was building a summer milk house over Hurlbut Creek where pails of milk sat in a trough of water and where he had erected a water wheel to churn the cream into butter.

In telling the callers of her experience in Miles City, Mrs. Hurlbut said, "There were those potato barrels and that rag rug. My pillar of cloud by day and my pillar of fire by night, leading me to my husband."

While on the ranch they had made the finest of butter. One of the early Christmases in their pioneer life Mrs. Hurlbut had sent pounds of butter as gifts to pioneer neighbor women who were not blessed with all the dairy products. On the Christmas packages she had written this scripture, "Silver and gold I have none but such as I have give I unto thee." In 1930, the Reverend and Mrs. Pardee Erdman purchased the Hurlbut ranch home from Mrs. Emma Sackett. The Reverend Erdman had come to Big Horn to preach and used Mrs. Hurlbut's Christmas card scriptures for the text in his sermon.

Mrs. Hurlbut had lived in New York State before coming to Wyoming. There she had a niece whom she missed very much, and always interpreted the call of the catbirds to be crying, "Mary, Mary!"

A man, his wife, and his two children, a boy and a girl, were journeying to Canada, but during the trip the mother became very ill and died. The man, not knowing what to do with his children, asked the Hurlbuts to keep them for him until he could send for them. The children were wonderful answers to prayers for the Hurlbuts for they had no children of their own. The children were with the Hurlbuts for many years, but both Mr. and Mrs. Hurlbut knew the day would come when the children's father would send for them. This sad news came in the summer of 1893. The father sent tickets, and asked Mrs. Hurlbut to accompany the children to Chicago. The World's Columbian Exposition was being held there so Mrs. Hurlbut knew it would be a wonderful experience

for them. Although she did not want the children to leave, she knew it would be wrong to keep them for they were not hers. She did as the father requested and took them to Chicago where their father met them and took them to Canada. Mrs. Hurlbut returned to the ranch but things were just not the same as they had been.

About three years later Mr. Hurlbut's health became poor, so he rented the ranch and moved to Big Horn where Mrs. Hurlbut boarded several teachers while the college was in operation. In 1899, they broke up housekeeping and moved to Pennsylvania to live with Mr. Hurlbut's elderly sister.

Mr. Hurlbut was a great student of American politics as well as of literature and was always a most interesting conversationalist. He was the author of a book on "The Single Tax" in political economy.

He had loved his life on the ranch in Big Horn. After he had moved to Pennsylvania it was his custom, when going from the house, to say to his wife, "Eliza, I'll be back in time to milk." A Big Horn friend sent him a bunch of early spring pussy willows. Mr. Hurlbut wrote back saying, "Those pussy willows truly brought me back to Hurlbut Creek without even a ticket."

Mrs. Hurlbut had returned to Big Horn to visit friends after Mr. Hurlbut's death, and then had gone on to Canada to visit the young woman whom she had reared as a child. She found that the boy had become an outstanding rodeo rider and had been killed by a horse at Calgary.

Mrs. Hurlbut wrote a letter telling of her journey to Canada. An interesting section of the letter was: "As we came up toward Billings the conductor came by and I asked him if the river we were traveling beside was the Yellowstone, that I thought it looked familiar. He repeated the word 'familiar?' I said that I had seen it in '81. Said he, 'This world was mighty new in '81; Adam and Eve were just out of the Garden'."

I went to school with "Harry" Burgess at Big Horn from 1882 to 1886 inclusive, and at Ohio State University from September, 1897 to June 13, 1900. We roomed together all the time he was at Ohio State University, where we boarded ourselves for the first two years.—C.L.S.

The Eckerson Family

DIXIE AVERY

Mr. W. H. Eckerson was born April 7, 1860 at Darlington, Wisconsin. As a sixteen-year-old boy he joined the gold rush to the Black Hills. With his habitual vein of Scotch humor he told his sons that because gold nuggets were not too plentiful he became a stable boy for Patrick Brothers Stagecoach line in Deadwood.

He helped "Pack Saddle Jack" drive a bunch of colts to this region and soon after was employed by Mr. O. H. Wallop at his Otter Creek horse ranch.

When Patrick Brothers took the contract to run a stage through this area along the Bozeman Trail and were looking for drivers, "Bill" Eckerson was re-employed and assigned to drive from Buffalo to Ohlman and the return trip the next day. The noon stop and the change of teams was at Big Horn. Years later, Mr. Eckerson recalled to his sons how he lost his way in one blizzard during the notable hard winter of 1886 and for hours drove in circles on the Beaver Creek divide without admitting to his passengers, two of whom were women, that he was off the road.

"Bill" Eckerson was with several hundred other men who played a minor part in the "Johnson County Cattle War." He was at the T A Ranch at the surrender as were several other Big Horn men, some of whom carried guns of men who stayed at home.

Quotations from two letters are informative. They were written by Mr. Edward Gillette, the civil engineer who brought the railroad into Sheridan and for whom the county seat of Campbell County is named. He was the surveyor for the Dome Lake project. Mr. Eckerson was running one of the crews with teams finishing the wagon road. Mr. Gillette reminded Mr. Eckerson that Sheridan County was bearing all the cost of the road and must stop as soon as it was possible to take a wagon over it. One letter dated "September 28, 1894," ended, "I'm glad to have one man on the road like yourself who can stay with the work and who knows what a wagon road is.

Sincerely yours,

E. Gillette."

In another letter dated October 7, 1894, Mr. Gillette wrote, "Kilpatrick Brothers (they were the contractors who had built the railroad grade into Sheridan and were now raising the natural dam at Dome Lake, making it into a resort for a club of Burlington Railroad officials) have 27 teams and 35 men at Dome Lake. They

want 35 or 40 men and would be glad to have your men. They pay \$1.25 per day and board when the men are at work and have a commissary with supplies and housing for comfort in storms." The family recalls their father having told them that there was often a lack of dynamite. He would use a large prolonged bonfire to heat a ledge of rock and then throw a quantity of ice or snow on it to cause it to crumble to successive blows of a sledge.

It was during stage stops at Big Horn that Mr. Eckerson met Miss Florence Belle Darling, who was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Dalrymple Darling, pioneer ranchers on Little Rapid Creek. Florence was born February 25, 1875 at Lundy's Lane, Pennsylvania. Her parents and an older brother, Delmer, had moved westward through Wisconsin and Iowa and in 1887 had arrived by covered wagon near Decker, Montana Territory, where the Emmett Munson ranch now is. They were there briefly before they homesteaded west of Big Horn. Florence boarded at the hotel with Mrs. Will Skinner to attend school. Her parents were members of the Big Horn Methodist Church. Miss Darling and Mr. Eckerson were married in 1894. Their family are: W. B. (Bert) Eckerson, physiotherapist, Fort Mackenzie Veterans Hospital, Sheridan, Wyoming; Hugh Donald (Don) Eckerson, Sheridan-Johnson R.E.A., Big Horn, Wyoming; Marguerite Eckerson (Mrs. Ralph Strickland), Cheshire, Connecticut; C. H. (Charles) Eckerson, Casper, Wyoming; Cecil David Eckerson, Cheshire, Connecticut.

In the foothills between the heads of Sackett and of Trabing Creek, Mr. Erickson proved a homestead that became a part of Mr. William Moncreiffe's ranch. Mr. Eckerson worked as a foreman of Mr. O. H. Wallop's ranch until the education of his children made living near the Big Horn school important. It was then that the Eckerson family home became the house that Mr. Tom Green had built when he was bookkeeper for Sackett & Skinner.

Mr. Eckerson bought out Mr. J. F. Lewis' livery barn which he operated in connection with freighting supplies to the reservoirs, Big Horn, "Bowman," Martin, and Last Chance, etc., that were being constructed in the mountains.

Mrs. Eckerson was for many years the pianist at church and was one of the foremost workers in the church circle.

Mrs. Eckerson died April 23, 1924.

Mr. Eckerson died September 2, 1939.

They are buried in Sheridan Municipal Cemetery beside Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Darling.

Family of John Henry Sackett and Martha Ann Sackett

SHIRLEY VANDENBERG

Mr. John Henry Sackett was born in Jefferson County, New York, July 31, 1845. He was the son of James Noble Sackett who on March 1, 1843 had married Ursula Makepeace, a direct descendant of Lawrence Washington. John Henry Sackett was taken with his family to near central Illinois in 1855. There his father farmed, raised stock, and was justice of the peace while the son drove the local physician to visit his patients and became deputy sheriff.

On March 17, 1871, he married Martha Ann Burd, daughter of Betsy Ann Woolley Burd, who is said to have been the first white child of a resident family at Fort Dearborn (now Chicago). Martha Ann was born in Chatsworth, Illinois, April 1, 1851. The family had moved to Texas where the father had died. Then the mother had returned to Illinois and homesteaded where Martha and John Henry in childhood had attended the same schools.

In the spring of 1872, with their baby son Lee Burd Sackett, who was born December 1871, at Chatsworth, Livingston County, Illinois, they homesteaded in western Nebraska, where "Jack" was one of the early commissioners of Hitchcock County. The next eight year's experiences forced "Jack" to hire Col. William F. Cody as a buffalo hunter and to follow the herds as repeated grasshopper attacks forced them to migrate. Martha moved several times, once into Colorado when Jack was on the trail from Oklahoma to Dakota before he got his own freight outfit. Martha's anxious months of waiting for Jack's return visits make thrilling reading as do Jack's friendships and loyalties to his co-workers.

During these years the son Lee was growing into a self-reliant, dependable big brother and there was born a boy who died; then Carl Leroy was born at Driftwood, Nebraska, February 27, 1876; and the daughter Ursula Jane, at Culbertson, Nebraska, December 2, 1877.

Martha's mother, Betsy Ann Woolley Burd had moved from Illinois to Beatrice, Nebraska. She and Martha had visited each other and were together in the spring of 1879 when "letters came from John (Jack) for the family to move to Cheyenne and that he knew a new and better country on the GOOSE CREEKS on the Bozeman Trail and wanted to go there as soon settlement could be made. So Betsy, Martha, Lee, Carl and Sula went by wagon

north about 70 miles to North Platte, Nebraska, where Betsy was to go east to Beatrice, and Martha and her three children were to go west to Cheyenne on the train." After a train wreck on the third day they got to Cheyenne and the family was together and Lee, who had started to school for a few months in Nebraska and Colorado, now continued to attend. John Henry continued freighting and a partnership was formed with Charles W. Skinner.

Baby Clyde Earl was born in Cheyenne August 20, 1880 and was two months old when the family started the northward trek. "The Bozeman Trail was the Cheyenne-Deadwood stage route until it left the Chugwater . . . The mules and horses were fed corn in nose-bags fastened over the noses by a strap over the heads behind the ears. Grain had to be hauled to keep the animals strong enough to do the hauling. Game was the main food for all frontier people . . . Antelope, deer, grouse and some buffalo were all along the 360 mile trail from Cheyenne. The trail went along Chugwater Creek and over near where Wheatland now is and then across the Laramie River and on to Fort Fetterman and across the North Platte on a pole bridge there, and then north by Bear Creek to Antelope Springs and by the Pumpkin Buttes and old Fort Reno where Powder River was forded, then to Nine-Mile and Crazy Woman Crossing and on to where Buffalo is now. After crossing Little Goose the Sackett party continued a southwesterly course and made camp at a trappers' cabin near where the Malcolm Moncreiffe residence was later built on Hanna Creek. "That was October 12, 1880." Just as they found shelter in this trappers' cabin it snowed. "After a few days, the snow stopped and Jack Sackett brought to the front of the cabin in a wagon box a very large grizzly bear, so long that its nose was at one end and its feet at the other. The box was 10 feet long. He took his son, Carl L. Sackett, and put him astride that bear. He had shot it east of Jackson Creek canyon. He and Skinner had to back a wagon to the bank and cut and place skids and block the wagon and with a long chain and the mules pulled the bear into the wagon. Another bear with it was shot by Skinner but it got away and was found later dead. The fat from the bear provided all the fat needed for all the folks on Little Goose at the time until spring. These were like the bear that Lewis and Clark wrote about. All the wagons were near the cabin, and Skinner and Darlington slept in the tent and the Sackett family occupied the cabin. The horses and mules and the one brindle durham cow, that was brought along, had been turned out to grass, which fortunately was good and tall and there was much good brush and shelter up the creek. There was a bell mule with a bell and the stock was accustomed to keeping with

her. A chinook came and the snow went away. All the goods had been kept in the wagons. Jack and Skinner looked around for the most favorable place to locate and decided to buy out Simone, a French-Canadian trapper, who had two log houses on what is now Sackett Creek at the point where the remodelled house now stands on the Wetzel place about a quarter of a mile east of Big Horn. The main Bozeman Trail then ran just south of that house . . . thence southwest to Little Goose Creek to a ford about 150 yards south of present Big Horn, thence westerly to what is now Jackson Creek, which it crossed just north of where the W. E. Jackson house was. The Goose Creek ford on that fork of the Bozeman Trail was shallow and the east bank was just about low-water in normal runs and at any flood or high-water the creek spread east for 100 yards, so there was shallow water easily forded in any season. It was the best ford anywhere on Little Goose Creek."

Carl thinks the two Simone cabins had been used by an officer of General Crook's command. One was larger and made of hewn logs with lime mortar. There were port holes, dirt roof and floor, one small window, a rough lumber door, and a stone fireplace large enough to burn big chunks of wood to keep the family comfortable. Mrs. Sackett's furniture consisted of a cupboard formed by piled up boxes with a curtain that hung in front, two chairs, a pole bed, a wooden slat bed, and a box for baby Clyde whose crying settlers had heard when they first went to buy from the wagons on Hanna Creek. Clyde had become accustomed to the jolt and found it hard to rest when there was no motion.

The other cabin was smaller and made from cottonwood logs. It had a portion of the dirt floor cut down as a makeshift cellar where the seed potatoes froze before spring. Into this smaller cabin the wagons were unloaded, and it was used as a store until a frame building was constructed of the lumber from Bear Davis' water mill in the canyon. The frame building was about 15 feet square and stood opening to the south where the vacant lots are now west of Norman Perry's yard. That was the "Sackett & Skinner General Merchandise" and the "Big Horn City" post office in the spring of 1881 when Messrs Sackett, Hanna, Skinner and Jackson got Jack Dow to survey the townsite. J. H. Sackett was appointed postmaster and Wells-Fargo agent.

In recollecting her early life in Big Horn, Martha Sackett recalled that she and Mrs. Warren Austin served the supper for the first dance in the new store hall. "They had bread, meat, butter, coffee, cake and pie." They had expected to serve oysters but the stage came too late. There were 90 to eat and only enough

utensils that each person might have one, either a fork or a spoon. They used bucket lids and pie pans for plates. Also, Martha Sackett, before the hotel was in operation, served meals to passengers and drivers as the stage came by and stopped to change horses.

She remembers that the Indians were usually friendly and also very curious about the doors and windows. On occasions when the Indians did come in war paint little "Sula" feared them and wanted to go to bed.

Jack added to the house beginning with the summer of 1882. It was soon very commodious. The yard was planted with trees, shrubs and flowers, the roots or seeds of which Martha always offered to share with her neighbors.

Jack let his meadows one-fourth mile to the south of his house be used as the site of the first and second Johnson County Fairs in 1885 and 1886. Martha recorded that she took the first prize for flowers. Ursula took the prize on cakes in the girls' division and competed with Nellie Willits for bread baking.

Hugh O. Sackett was born at Big Horn, then Johnson County, March 13, 1882. He was schooled at Big Horn and in his boyhood helped with the Sackett ranch. In his manhood he operated the Sackett ranch in Johnson County at Mayoworth on the north fork of Powder River. Hugh and his wife Fannie had seven children, two of whom attended Big Horn High School. He died at Buffalo February 14, 1940.

Ross Orr Sackett was born at Big Horn June 11, 1886 and beside his schooling at Big Horn he took courses at Lincoln, Nebraska, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and at Sheridan. He helped his mother with the ranch at Big Horn and later also helped with the Sackett ranch on the north fork of Powder River and became superintendent of the pumping station at Midwest, Wyoming. Later when residing in Big Horn, where his three children had all attended high school, he met his death on July 21, 1940 and was interred beside his wife Gladys Johnson Sackett.

When Hugh and Ross were little boys their father Jack built a large barn by his home and grew and bred fine horses. "Later, he added on each side barn-stalls and stanchions for dairy cows, and Martha and the boys ran a dairy." Lee broke the horses for riding and driving and became an expert roper and cowboy. He used the string of horses and rode for the PK outfit on the Rosebud and Tongue River in Montana and learned the Indian sign language thoroughly, which later proved very fortunate for him and the army when he was in the Philippine campaign. Lee had gone in 1898 with the Wyoming National Guard to Manila and was serving with the artillery when he discovered "some hill people



EARLY DAY FREIGHTING—Prairie schooners loaded with men and equipment as Lemuel E. Martin brought them to build the Colorado Ditch. (See Martin paper.) Courtesy of Helvey family.

who lived in the forest and who were ignored by the valley people." Lee communicated with them in their own sign language and gave them salt, tobacco and matches. "Finally he succeeded in proving to his commander that the people were using sign language which he understood" and found out that the enemy were armed with similar artillery "so placed as to sweep the valley ahead." "If Lee had not understood their sign language there would have been another and greater Custer Massacre." ". . . Afterwards it was learned that the Indian sign language was used not only by the hill people but up through Malay Peninsula, Burma and Siberia to the Bering Strait." ". . . After the war Lee was promoted to an Assistant to the Chief Checker of the government supplies from the United States to the Islands and later was Chief Checker of government supplies himself." "As such, he became well acquainted with the shipping in the Islands and its ports and people. Lee's knowledge of the Islanders and transportation enabled him to become a partner of the owners of the Luzon Stevedoring Company." In Manila "Lee continued in this business until a few years before he died." "In 1923, hearing that his mother was seriously ill, he returned to Sheridan County to see her and remained several months." "On December 28, 1935, he passed away at his home in Manila. The Elks Lodge arranged fitting ceremonies and his ashes were interred in the Elks' plot in Del Norte Cemetery close up to the monument and a little to the right as you enter the Elks Rest, where each Memorial Day it is suitably adorned with a wreath and cut flowers and also marked with the starry emblem of our country by the Elks Lodge and veterans."

As a young man at home on the Sackett ranch, Lee had helped make all the improvements and he continued with the farming and ditching on the 160 Rummel homestead, which his father bought north of Jake Wagner's land and on the Cruse Creek ranch, which Jack Sackett purchased from Will Burgess. After J. H. Sackett's death, December 21, 1893, the boys then continued the operation of the ranch with their mother.

Carl L. and Ursula graduated from the Wyoming Collegiate Institute in 1897. Carl studied law at Ohio State University, graduating in 1901. He was admitted to the bar in Ohio and in Oklahoma in 1901 and practiced as an attorney in Sheridan from February 1902 until he accepted the appointment of U.S. District Attorney for Wyoming, where he served from June 1933 to March 1949. Since his retirement he continues to live in Cheyenne where he has his private law practice. Ursula was a teacher until she

became Mrs. J. T. Gatchell and moved to Buffalo, where she still resides.

Clyde, who was an exceptionally splendid horseman, married Miss Bertha Flemming, who came from Siam, Iowa, in 1902. She has continued to live in Big Horn since Clyde's death December 23, 1947. She has been honored by the Rebecca Lodge with the Decoration of Chivalry.

When ill health compelled Martha Sackett to sell the ranch, she lived as an inspiring example of patient suffering until her death May 10, 1924.

When Ross' son, Jack, the namesake of his pioneer grandfather, gave his life in the Air Force over England, September 17, 1944, the Sackett family honored Big Horn school by presenting in memory of Jack, a World War II Roll of Honor, on which Jack's gold star and four others of Big Horn are engraved above the names of our servicemen. Carl L. Sackett has written a biographical sketch of Jack Darwin Sackett and a detailed account of his Air Force service, a copy of which is preserved in the Big Horn school library.

(Information secured from Bertha Sackett, news clippings, and direct quotations from Carl Sackett's "Family of John Henry Sackett and Martha Ann Sackett.")

I make reference to Col. William F. Cody, page 89. He took a sub-contract under "Jack" Sackett for providing meat (buffalo, elk, antelope, deer) along the Union Pacific Railroad.

References to page 91. The stage horses and barn were on Sackett Creek, operated by Sackett most of that year. The road and bridge were not yet at the southeast corner of Big Horn. The ford was used.

Look-out pits for officers under General Crook's command were on top of both hills on each side of Sackett Creek and pits with stone around through Little Goose, brush and rifle pits overlooking the valley by spring at the foot of the hill on the north side of Sackett Creek.

The large barn mentioned on page 92 was a two-story, 30 x 60 feet barn, with loft which held 10 tons of hay.—C.L.S.

William Wallace Sackett

BETSY BETTCHER

Mr. William Wallace Sackett, who was born August 18, 1866 at Forest, Illinois, was a younger brother of J. H. Sackett, whose family he helped as he gained experience in building and ditching, fencing, etc., while he was proving on Upper Trabing Creek as a homestead that he later sold to O. H. Wallop.

In 1898 Miss Emma Watkins, who was born January 30, 1879, Shelby County, Ohio, came by train to marry him. The ceremony was in Sheridan. They had ranch employment. Mrs. Sackett recalls how close at hand the mountains looked from the train, how they seemed no nearer when they had driven eight miles toward them.

One shack in which they lived had a sod wall that she kept from crumbling by lining it with cloth. Into another, there crawled a snake which Emma killed only by mustering all her courage. She soon found Mrs. Jake Wagner to be her best advisor, guide and example in becoming a ranch housewife.

With their four hands working together, the Sacketts bought the 43 acre corner of the Makinley Wood farm from where Mr. Sackett did hauling and started a bunch of cattle. Here they were near the mountains and could begin to see the trees stand out. Soon they purchased the Edmund Hurlbut ranch and lived in its foothill beauty.

Mr. Sackett was stricken by cancer and died in November of 1915. Their children are Mrs. Ursula Dellit, Big Horn; Mr. Leroy Sackett, Big Horn. She has been on the school board or in district employment for many years; Mabel, (Mrs. Milton Delzell, Sioux City, Iowa), herself a teacher as are Dorothy, (Mrs. Bert Kay) Buffalo Star Route; and Shirley (Mrs. Harold Drysdale), Medford, Oregon.

Mrs. Emma Sackett, who has celebrated her 80th birthday, gave to the school 20 years' copies of the National Geographic Magazine. These were the start of our library's highly prized volumes.

The Skinner Family

EDITH HANSLIP

Mr. Charles William Skinner was born on January 5, 1856 in Green County, Wisconsin, where his English born parents, Robert and Mary (Hickman) Skinner had settled soon after their marriage in Illinois.

When Charles was nine they had moved to Butler County, Iowa. At twenty years of age, he had gone West where he drove a freight outfit and after some months owned his own. He recalled having hauled into Deadwood the first stamp mill (a heavy grinding machine that crushed ore small enough that the gold could be extracted) and having hauled gold bricks back to Sidney, Nebraska, to be shipped on the Union Pacific railroad and having seen Calamity Jane smoking her "famed" cigar while she played poker with Wild Bill Hickok. Skinner had also freighted in Colorado from Colorado Springs to Leadville and again later from Cheyenne to the Black Hills.

In Cheyenne in 1880 Mr. Skinner planned a partnership with Mr. J. H. Sackett. A Cheyenne wholesale grocery firm, Baker and Graham, backed them to four freight wagon loads of groceries to start their own business.

Mr. Skinner drove his own mule teams. Mr. Nels Darlington drove Mr. Sackett's. The Sackett family had a wagon and a milk cow, Sackett had a saddle horse which he used when acting as scout looking for a camp site or choice of stream crossing, etc.

The freight mules were driven by a single jerk line. Mr. Skinner rode his saddle on the left wheel-mule and had the rope from the brake poles that were on the left side of each wagon tied to the saddle horn. The single rein that he held in his hand ran to the bridle bit of the left lead-mule which was trained to turn "gee," right, when the line jerked or to turn "haw," left, when the line had a steady pull. (Mr. Carl Sackett wrote:): "From the spreaders (serving as double-trees behind the lead mule team) was a chain going back between the trains to the front axle and back to the trail wagon. Straps or small chains went from the spreaders to the collars of the mule team behind to hold up the spreaders and the long pulling chain; but the last spreader was held up by being fastened to the end of the wagon-tongue. The doubletrees next to the wagon were on top of the tongue. The team next to the wagon were the largest mules and called the guide mules or wheelers. The lead team was called 'leaders'".

They arrived in October in the Little Goose valley and camped on Hanna Creek where the Malcolm Moncreiffe residence was later built.

After looking over the situation the partners chose claims along Little Goose near the Bozeman Trail crossing. Mr. Skinner bought off a squatter called "Buck Martin." The cabin was on the east side of the creek about one-fourth mile northeast of the present Hanslip barnyard. This cabin with some improvements was Mr. Skinner's home until he built the beginning of the frame house on its present site as is told in a news item of the Sheridan paper under date of October 20, 1888.

Charles managed the freighting from the Union Pacific railroad. He was on his way south for more merchandise just as soon as the wagons were unloaded. (Carl Sackett in his recollections wrote:) "Soon Skinner and Nels Darlington went back with two ten-mule teams and four freight wagons loaded with hides and furs to Cheyenne for more merchandise."

A few years later when the Northern Pacific railroad was built west across Southern Montana, Mr. Skinner drove north and hauled goods from Custer Station.

Mary Alice Hayes was born at Neosho, Newton County, Missouri November 22, 1864. Her parents soon died, and she spent her childhood as an orphan living with relatives. In her late teens she came with acquaintances to Custer Station and found employment. Soon she was working for a family in Billings through whom she came to Big Horn influenced by her interest in Mr. Charles W. Skinner whom she had met at Custer Station.

The Skinner children are Nellie May Skinner (1886, Retired U.S. Veteran's Administration nurse, Big Horn, Wyoming); Maud (1888, Mrs. H. E. Langheldt, Big Horn, Wyoming); Fred V. Skinner (1891, Postmaster, Big Horn, Wyoming); Charles W. Skinner (1896, 2660 Deming Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming, Instructor Air Base, Fort Warren.)

After the townsite was platted in 1881 and lumber was accessible progress was rapid as is shown by a photograph taken in 1884. There are shown the large frame house of J. J. Wagner and the sawn board fence surrounding it and the barnyard; the frame house of the Jeff Woodley family (near where Lee Garrett's house now is); the hotel, the store, the warehouse, and the almost finished saloon. These all are constructed with boards running from foundation to cornice with a wide cleat covering the cracks where boards join. The business buildings have high false fronts as was the style in the 1880's. They were so well constructed that they have withstood the wind, weather, and lack of paint for over 76

years. With the exception of the hotel these buildings have been in continuous use.

The Sackett and Skinner store is large and has a frost proof cellar under it. There was a large coal stove at the rear end. There were chandeliers holding coal oil lamps, that rumor says trembled when a dance was in progress in the hall overhead where now Mr. and Mrs. Fred Skinner reside in their luxurious propane-heated modern apartment. Mrs. Langheldt has one of the gilt-edged invitations to the first big dance in the hall. It reads:

CHRISTMAS EVE BALL

Yourself and ladies are respectfully invited
to attend a Christmas Ball, to be given at

Sackett and Skinner Hall,

Big Horn City, Dec. 24, 1883

Music by the Big Horn City Band

Tickets including

supper \$5.00

Mr. Carl Sackett recalls that "City Band" consisted of Mr. W. E. Jackson, violinist and his son Frank who played chords. Fred Hilman reports that his grandfather, "Bear" Davis, was a good violinist before the muscles of his hand were injured by a bear.

In 1881, Mr. Will Skinner, who had been born in 1859, came to Big Horn to help his brother, C. W. Skinner. He became an experienced teamster. In June 1885, Miss Josephine Barnett, who had been born in 1863, arrived with her nephew Nye Barnett (Dayton, Wyoming) with Mrs. Barton-Russell and son and daughter, Leon Barton (deceased) and Lula Barton (Mrs. Lynn Barnes, The Dalles, Oregon.)

In 1886 Miss Barnett and William Skinner were united in marriage by Elder G. W. Benton as they sat in a buggy in his dooryard. Mr. Skinner's broken leg was in a cast so that he could not stand or walk well. They built the house with an upstairs that has in recent years been the home of the Winton Shaw family. Their children were Hugh (1887) died in infancy; Rae (1889, Mrs. Rae Mela-Detra, Clarkville. Iowa); Robert (1892, lost after World War I).

Mr. and Mrs. Will Skinner about 1890 bought the hotel from Mr. O. P. Hanna and built the rooms onto the south side in 1896. Mrs. Skinner was famous for the oysters suppers she served for dances as well as for her everyday good cooking.

About 1900 they moved back to Iowa. He died there in 1904. Mrs. Josephine Skinner returned here in the late 1920's and died in 1937.

Another brother, John Skinner, with his wife and daughter came in 1893 to help Charles, who for them built the house that is Mrs. Ruby Kusel's. They took care of the Skinner ranch and the children and hauled each week from Sheridan the several wagon loads of merchandise necessary to keep the warehouse stocked for the store over which Mr. William Brown, a many times employed bookkeeper, was left in charge. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Skinner visited the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and Mr. Skinner's parents in Iowa.

After there was a railroad line at Douglas, Wyoming, in 1892 Mr. C. W. Skinner took his family and Mrs. Will Skinner and her children East to visit his relatives. He had arranged merchandise to be hauled back to Big Horn by the spring wagon that took the family and by the freight wagon that hauled their baggage. When some weeks later they returned by way of the Northern Pacific railroad to Custer Station, Montana. Their own teams met them to bring them home along with loads of goods.

In 1894, when Mr. Skinner's parents came to visit, he drove mules to take them and Mrs. Skinner and his family on a month's camping trip to Thermopolis. Others from Big Horn, the Jacksons, the Davises, and the Spears, etc., formed a caravan and traveled together part of the time. They crossed the mountains by following a very poor road up Crazy Woman Canyon past Hazelton on to Thermopolis. On the return they came up the old stage road from Hyattville and then over to the old Bald Mountain trail and down that to Dayton. They used roads that today are scarcely considered as stock trails.

Mr. C. W. Skinner next had his brother George with him several years before the Spanish American War. During the 1890's the ranch and the home were improved and the foothill homestead of Mr. William Brown was purchased as summer pasture along with other tracts.

Again before the children began going away to college Mr. and Mrs. Skinner took them all by train to Seattle for a school year.

Later when his health was poor Mr. Skinner rented the store but it and the ranch remained in the family until the ranch was sold to Mr. Earl Hanslip in 1949. Mr. Skinner died May 7, 1925. Mrs. Skinner died April 21, 1931. The daughters gave the family books to the school library.

From the platting of the Big Horn townsite, C. W. Skinner was a promoter of every forward movement up to and including the subscription to make the surfaced road.

(Information from Miss Nell Skinner, Mrs. M. E. Langheldt, Mr. Carl Sackett, news clippings, photographs, etc.)

The Makinley Wood Family

NOLA BARRETT

Makinley Wood was born March 14, 1847, at Terre Coupe, Indiana. He was the son of the widow, Jane Ferguson Wood, who married Willis B. Spear (see Spear Family). When the Spear family was in Missouri, December 25, 1870, "Kinnie," as the step-son was called, married Mary J. Smith who had been born June 23, 1850 at Hustisford, Lodge County, Wisconsin. Their home was in Atchison County, Missouri, near Tarkio and Rockport. They had buried a small daughter and had with them five sons when they came to Wyoming. They lived for about a year in the McCormick school area before homesteading two miles southwest of Big Horn. Their cabin was only one-fourth of a mile north from the Lone Star school which the boys attended summers.

In addition to farming, Mr. Wood raised many chickens and prepared produce which he hauled by wagon to Fort McKinney. He took any products neighbors wished to sell thus making it possible to find a cash market among the families living around the Fort and in Buffalo, the growing county seat of Johnson County.

Makinley Wood soon became a member of the school board on which he served the rest of his life. As president of the school board, Mr. Wood presented as a spelling award to Lona Martin (Mrs. R. T. Helvey) an album that she still treasures. About 1897 Mr. Wood moved his family to Big Horn into the house where Mr. and Mrs. R. J. (Doc) Avery now reside. The Wood boys then attended "College" or the grade school at Big Horn.

In the spring of 1901 when Mr. Wood was water commissioner traveling from home daily, there were a few very light cases of smallpox. It was considered impossible to keep a quarantine. Early in July, Mr. Wood, who had never had a smallpox vaccination, became seriously ill and died July 14, 1901. Panic seized the community and the Wood family took their father's coffin to the cemetery in their own lumber wagon and conducted a private funeral.

Mrs. Mary Wood soon moved to Sheridan. She died May 2, 1930.

The eldest son, Makinley Guy Wood (1874-1927) on April 7, 1897, married Nellie Willits at the J. O. Willits home. Their children are Mary Elizabeth (Beth), Iris, Thomas Makinley (Chip). Nellie Wood died in 1903. Guy Wood died in 1927.

Paul Ray Wood (1876-) married Edna Brown on October 28, 1897, at the J. F. Brown residence. Their children are Violet,



BIG HORN TAKEN IN 1909—(Picture Courtesy of Skinner family.)

Mae, Paul, Ethel, Roy and June.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wood operated the Brown cheese factory while farming and later a grocery store in the Sackett saloon building. Like his father before him, Ray was on the school board. He was a speaker at the One Hundredth Anniversary of NEA in April, 1957. It was Mrs. Wood who gave the delightful address at the time the brick church was given as a community center. When Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wood celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1947, their bridesmaid, Minnie Enos Baker, returned from the West coast to attend. Mrs. Ray Wood died in 1948. Mr. and Mrs. Makinley Wood's other sons, Harry, Frank and Clyde, who had been born in Missouri, after attending Big Horn school, made their homes elsewhere. Carl and Robert, who were born at the homestead, moved to Sheridan with their mother.

MRS. LORINDA WOOD SCHNEIDER AND CHILDREN

PATTY EDMISTON

When a widow, Mrs. Lorinda Wood Schneider, sister of Makinley Wood, moved to Big Horn following her sons, Charley F. and Arthur, and bringing with her Jennie (Mrs. Sam Culbertson), Hal (deceased), Fred, Jossie (deceased). Later another son, Will Schneider and his wife, before continuing to the Pacific Coast, lived in Big Horn in the house J. H. Genereaux has remodeled.

Charley F. Schneider was working in Sheridan in 1896 when he married Christine Olson who had been born August 27, 1877, at Webster City, Iowa. Their daughter, Lillian N. Schneider (Mrs. H. O. Wilson, 1639 Warren Avenue, Sheridan, Wyoming) was born March 9, 1898. She was the only great-grandchild who attended the Golden Wedding of "Grandpa and Grandma" Spear in Billings in 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Charley F. Schneider owned the "Greub" house and lived there until Charley died in 1900. (See Arthur Schneider "Troop E.")

Mrs. Lorinda Schneider bought for her home the Doctor Jackson house where Fred Schneider has been in recent years. In December, 1907, she died on a visit west to her son Will, and her burial was in Rockport, Missouri.

MR. AND MRS. JEROME F. BROWN FAMILY

PATTY EDMISTON

Mr. Jerome F. Brown was born July 8, 1835, at Batavia, Genesee County, New York. His wife Alneda Martin was born at Concord, New York, December 19, 1836.

They had lived in Danville, Illinois, and had known the H. A. Coffeen family whom they followed to Wyoming bringing their

younger children. They moved their cheese making equipment from Buffalo to Big Horn, where their daughter, Edna, and son, Leroy Martin (Roy) attended the "College."

After making cheese at the Lambrigger location, Mr. Brown moved from Buffalo a portion of his house to which he added to make their home where E. B. Talcott now resides. There, January 1, 1909, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Mr. Brown always worked with the Sunday School and stood for the highest ideals. Jerome F. Brown was a prominent member of the Odd Fellows for more than fifty years. He joined the order in Danville, Illinois, when 22 years of age. He was a charter member of Atlantas Lodge No. 23, I.O.O.F., of Big Horn which he instituted in 1896. He served as grand master of the order in Wyoming for two years, assuming the office on October 14, 1897, and was elected grand representative to the sovereign grand lodge.

Jerome F. Brown died February 2, 1910.

Roy Brown lived the rest of his life at Big Horn where he married and reared his family. He taught the manual training when that subject was first in Big Horn school. He died in 1939.

An older sister, Nora, (Mrs. Nora Fay-Anderson) taught near Buffalo and later at Big Horn, and had her daughters, Lulu and Maud (deceased) attending Big Horn school while they lived with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Brown. Mrs. Anderson is living in South Gate, California, with a granddaughter who is a daughter of Lulu Fay Metzel, who for many years has been station agent on the Milwaukee railroad at Ingomar, Montana.

The Nottingham Homestead

ALDRICH KUCHERA

Mr. W. W. Nottingham was the second son of Henry Nottingham and his wife Martha, who had come from Nottingham, England before 1830 and settled at Richmond, Virginia, where William Wilson was born May 22, 1841. As a young man with his older brother Ephraim he went to Creston, Iowa.

Later W. W. moved on following the stampede to Pike's Peak in Colorado where he took up a squatter's claim in practically what is now Denver. In 1864, he again moved west going to Idaho and then eastward to Virginia City, Montana Territory, which was the end of the Bozeman Trail. There he got together a bull freighting outfit consisting of five drivers and one herder. The freighting was done for the government between Fort Benton and Conrad. On one of the freighting trips, the outfit was attacked by a band of the Nez Pierce Indians. The herder was killed and the oxen were either killed or lost completely. The load, which was made up of edible provisions, mostly meats, was all taken by the Indians. Mr. Nottingham and his five drivers escaped with their lives and their guns owing to the fact that Mr. Nottingham had trained his drivers to keep their guns always in arm's reach. They managed to escape by hiding in the brush at day-time, and traveling at night until they reached safety. Later William Nottingham and his brother, Anderson Nottingham, got together another freighting outfit and freighted along the Yellowstone River until 1879.

When the business was in good order Mr. Nottingham turned it over to Anderson and left for Iowa to get married. He married Belle Eads and they farmed in Iowa for four years. At the end of that time, Mr. Nottingham and his brother-in-law, Andy Eads, decided to go to Wyoming and go into the cattle business.

They started out in the early spring and drove 300 head of cattle to Northern Johnson County, which is now Sheridan County. He then filed on and acquired what is now the present Box Cross Ranch. Mrs. Nottingham and their three sons, Buford, Monroe and Jefferson followed them to Wyoming. They came by rail as far as Douglas and from there on they made the trip to Big Horn in a covered wagon. Mr. Nottingham continued enlarging and improving the ranch; he appropriated irrigation rights from the Peralta ditch and the Colorado ditch, both of which are still in service with much reservoir water added.

Three more sons, George, Donald and Clay were born to the

Nottinghams and grew up on the ranch. Mr. Nottingham later built a house in Big Horn so the children could attend school during the winter.

Mr. William Wilson Nottingham died in 1904 from pneumonia. Mrs. Nottingham made her home in Big Horn after the death of her husband. She lived in Big Horn until the last few weeks of her life which she spent with her son George. She died in 1934.

The ranch was first sold to Mr. Hake who in turn sold it to Mr. Lovell, for whom Mr. E. C. Bowman was manager.

It was Mr. Bowman who built the Park Reservoir, commonly spoken of as the "Bowman Reservoir" on the Big Goose Creek in the Big Horns.

After Mr. Lovell's death, his estate sold the ranch to Mr. Paxton Roberts upon whose death the Slack family purchased it and now reside there.

Trabing Creek and Kemp Flat Settlers

STEVEN BETTCHER

On the east side of upper Little Goose Valley is the broad flat known as "Trabing" then "Kemp." Trabing Creek flows on the west of the flat and Kemp Creek on the east. Mr. Trabing, a Laramie merchant, had left his name there in 1878 when he had staked off a claim that he abandoned while he was operating for a time a store near the Crazy Woman crossing on the Bozeman Trail and later was selling goods outside the Fort McKinney reserve south of Buffalo.

Mr. Jim Kemp, an Englishman, was a brother of Frank Kemp who had been manager of the Lord Frewen cattle holdings on Powder River. Jim came to Little Goose and had his cabin near where the present buildings of Allen Fordyce are occupied by the Ed Moore family. That little stream up which the Bar Thirteen road runs was named Kemp for the pioneer homesteader. Jim Kemp moved there when "Buckskin" Martin left by invitation of the vigilante. (That was the same "Buck" Martin who had sold his first cabin to C. W. Skinner.)

Between Jim Kemp's land and Goose Creek and joining the east end of Filmore Benefield's homestead was the claim of Mr. Seabury D. "Old Man" Hays who came after mining at Virginia City at the end of the Bozeman Trail. He had money to lend on interest and did his private banking on the side while proving on a claim. His first cabin was on the west creek bank just beside the road that crosses above the Gallatin bridge. Then he built a better log house almost where the stucco ranch house occupied by the Loomis family now stands. That log house burned after William Moncreiffe bought the land. In the Big Horn cemetery one of the largest grave markers is inscribed with the words "HAYS." Mr. Charles Skinner was his friend to whom he had entrusted the task. His property was inherited by nieces in the East.

South and east of Mr. Hays the choicest filings of the flat were made by the family of Mr. and Mrs. Perry. There were the parents, two married sons, and the young man, William, who came overland from Kansas so early in the spring of 1882 that they had to camp fourteen days waiting for Powder River to get low enough to ford. All trace of their cabins disappeared after their land was transformed into Mr. William Moncreiffe's alfalfa fields.

Mr. E. Spence Perry's wife was a trained primary teacher who helped with the pioneer Sunday School. They moved away

as soon as they completed proof on their claim. Mr. and Mrs. Newton Perry had a growing family who attended school either at Lone Star or Big Horn. The youngest brother, W. C. (Bill) Perry, worked barefoot cradling oats as had been his custom in Kansas. His filing was to the west of the big butte and his buildings were remodeled as the "hayhouse" where Gallatin's silo was later built.

W. C. Perry married Miss Mary Eads, the sister of Mrs. W. W. Nottingham. In later years they lived in Sheridan.

The parents bought the Sam Thompson house on block 22 in Big Horn. Everyone revered "Grandma Perry." She was a practical nurse, child caretaker of the community, and a deeply religious soul, whose advice was sought by young and old. Mrs. Cathrine Perry outlived her husband by 21 years and was 82 years old when she died at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Perry, in Sheridan in 1914. She was buried from the Big Horn church of which she was an officer.

The daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mary Perry, when a widow, in recent years returned to Big Horn to spend her old age and was called "Aunt Mary Perry."

Mrs. Will Perry's brother, William Eads, with his family occupied one of the Perry cabins for a few years about 1890 and his daughters, Nellie and Myrtle Eads, went to Lone Star school. Later they lived nearer Big Horn and attended there.

Charlie White, who in his youth had driven cattle on the Chisholm Trail, brought his family from Texas. They lived about 1890 on the S. D. Hays and also on the J. W. Austin places from which the children attended school. Mr. White's homestead was in the foothills on the head of McCormick Creek and he and Mrs. White did not reside in Big Horn until their old age. Their eldest son, James Malcolm (Mallie) White was one of the four graduates of the "College" and a member of the Big Horn Church as was Mrs. White. The daughters Bertie (Mrs. Lavell, deceased); Belle (Mrs. Frank Spracklin, deceased); Mamie (deceased); and Pearl (Mrs. W. H. Potts, Buffalo) had many acquaintances at Big Horn as did the sons Charles, Ragan and Dave (deceased).

In the late 1890's Mr. Fred L. Tollman was the Moncreiffe brothers' foreman and took his school teacher bride Susie Kerr to the ranch house there.

The Harbison Family

MAZIE H. EGBERT

Grandfather Harbison's father was a veteran of the War of 1812. He, as a boy along with his mother, had been captured by Indians and endured much before they escaped. Theirs truly was a pioneer family from past generations. They were famed for their marksmanship in hunting.

Mr. James Benjamin Harbison (1822-1909) and his wife, Mary A. Harbison (1824-1892) came by covered wagon with their son Perry and family to Wyoming and lived on Lower Cruse Creek. An undated clipping, that must have been May 18, 1888, reads:

"A pleasant surprise party visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harbison, near Big Horn, on Friday, 18th inst., the occasion being the Ruby wedding of the aged couple. Among those present were Rev. Jennings and wife, Mrs. Willits, Mrs. Spear, Miss Spear, Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Hanna, Miss Myers, Mrs. Custis, Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Pope, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Harbison, Mrs. Delos Babcock, Mrs. R. Babcock, Mr. and Mrs. Hurlbut, Mrs. Sackett, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis. Besides the numerous valuable presents, there was a handsome wedding cake (designed and made by Mrs. Jennings and Mrs. Willits), in which was a bowl containing forty pieces of silver, representing the forty years of the happy pair's wedded life. After a sumptuous repast, which was provided by the visitors, and an address by Rev. Jennings, the company departed for their several homes leaving the venerable couple to their happy condition."

Grandpa and Grandma Harbison are known to have been members of the first organized church in Big Horn.

The son, Mr. Perry Harbison, was born January 11, 1850 in Pennsylvania. He married Annie Margaret Logeman who was born November 29, 1848 in Wisconsin. They spent their early married years near Clarinda, Iowa, where a daughter Millie and a son Alan were born.

In 1884 they came by wagon train to Big Horn, Wyoming, where they homesteaded on upper Sackett Creek. The present Allen Fordyce residence is on the exact site of the pioneer cabin. At that home a daughter Mazie was born.

Millie was a student at the "college." She became a teacher in the Big Horn Basin and married Mr. Chas. Smith. She died October 29, 1953 at Riverton, Wyoming.

Alan, when he was of age, also homesteaded in the adjoining

foothills that he loved. His work was as rider on the Last Chance ditch.

Mazie was a teacher and a musician. She married Mr. David Egbert of Ten Sleep where they reside.

After the family sold the ranch, they purchased the acreage south of the Big Horn townsite. Mrs. Harbison died August 10, 1928, Mr. Harbison February 25, 1938 and Alan April 18, 1946. To their pioneer friends the many evergreen trees growing in that yard stand as a memorial to the Harbison family.

Cruse Creek Valley

HARVEY RHOADS

Mr. and Mrs. "Mike" Enos from Texas homesteaded the upper end of Cruse Creek valley. Mr. Enos ran a horsepower threshing machine that was replaced in the 1900's by a steam power machine.

When there was a good crop he might be threshing for three months or longer. He often started down Little Goose valley toward Sheridan and worked upstream. Ranchers would stack their bound grain as soon as it was dry enough and wait to thresh it in November or even December.

Miss Minnie Enos, sometimes in summer with her younger brother Walter, rode horseback to the Lone Star school. Sometimes Mrs. Enos with the family would move to Big Horn for the winter and live in the house that Mr. Norman Perry now owns. Minnie attended the "College" and soon became a teacher. One summer she taught for the children on Cruse Creek a three-month school in the J. K. Reece house when that family moved into their new residence in Big Horn.

An older son, James Enos, was an experienced horseman. Mr. Enos was a long time member of the Big Horn school board. In old age he and his wife made their home where the Warners now reside.

There was the Westgate family where the State Bird Farm now is. The daughter, Sadie Westgate, like Minnie Enos, rode horseback to Lone Star school in summertime.

Between the Zullig ranches on Cruse Creek where the Legerski family has been in recent years was the homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, an elderly couple who are buried in the Big Horn cemetery.

Cruse Creek was named for Mr. Cruse, who in the early 1880's filed near the lower end of the stream. Up the creek from him was Jack Coates and nearby the Gruell family, whose children attended Big Horn school for a few terms. Gruells had the first sheep in the vicinity.

West of Mr. Cruse was the claim of Mr. Edwin Fields whose land joined on the northeast of Henry Gerdel. Mr. Cruse and Mr. Fields both were Civil War veterans as was Jack Coates who walked with a limp because he had refused to allow an army surgeon to amputate his leg when the bone had been shattered by a rifle ball.

North of Henry Gerdel was the "Frank" Martin homestead. Since early days that has been a dividing line between the Mc-

Cormick (Woodland Park) and the Big Horn school. Mr. B. F. Martin, a widower, had looked the valley over in 1881 and had returned to Bedford, Iowa. He came back the next spring with a small wagon train that made the trip in two months, arriving June 9, 1882.

The Martin children were Mary Ellen (Mrs. James T. Glasgow); Edith Jane (Mrs. Howard Brundage); Dorothy (Mrs. Thomas Trimmer); Andrew (Andy), who married Zona Thomas; Elias, who was only six years of age when they came to Wyoming.

The three younger children attended school here. A recent report from Andy told: "There were not many months spent in the school room that first year, perhaps three at the most. Mrs. Paxton was the teacher and she had 54 pupils."

After about ten years, Mr. Martin and his sons moved to the North Fork of the Shoshone River. After many years of teaching, Mrs. Trimmer moved there later going to Cody when she was a widow. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Brundage moved to the South Fork of Shoshone.

B. F. Martin died in 1930. Elias died in 1922. Dorothy Trimmer died June 20, 1931.

"James T. Glasgow was born in Tioga, Illinois, April 9, 1860. In 1872 he moved to Kansas. In the spring of 1882 he came to Wyoming working near Big Horn. On March 29, 1885, he was united in marriage to Mary E. Martin." They were farming for six years before they moved to Kansas taking with them their daughter Stella (Mrs. Stella Stevens, Long Beach, California) and leaving in Big Horn cemetery the grave of three-year-old Earl.

It was in the autumn of 1907, when with five younger children, they returned and operated the J. O. Willits ranch where Mr. Glasgow died of pneumonia March 28, 1910. Mrs. Glasgow, after years in Long Beach, California, died there in 1951.

Near the Frank Martin land eastward was that of Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace Leavitt. He was born June 6, 1851, in Gouverneur, New York. His parents had moved to Missouri in 1865.

At Cameron, Missouri, October 22, 1871, W. W. Leavitt married Rachel Wood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Wood, who had been born there September 21, 1853. They came to Cheyenne in 1875 but returned to Missouri within two years. Again in 1883 they came west and accompanied by Mr. Leavitt's sisters, Louisa and Sarah, and by Mrs. Leavitt's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Wood with their sons Thompson, George (Mack), Neri and Frank settled on lower Cruse Creek and lower McCormick Creek where the valleys open together.

“ . . . Grandmother Wood having passed away September 28, 1896 . . . buried in Big Horn cemetery, Will Wood and family came from Deadwood, South Dakota, to live with Grandfather and me . . . Effie Wood (Mrs. Huff, deceased) and Perry Wood (Tacoma, Washington) rode with me to the Big Horn school in the fall of 1898. The Will Wood family moved into the ‘brick’ house in Big Horn and attended school about three years . . . I remember Pearl LaDuke’s going to school there in 1889.”

“It is so little I know about Aunt Louisa Farwell. She evidently came from Missouri with us in 1882. She was born at Gouverneur, New York, October 16, 1853. She died February 8, 1885. I know the Charley Farwell ranch was located on Little Goose creek, the McCormick school house was on a corner of it. I believe McPhillamey owns it now. According to her obituary by Elder George W. Benton, she taught school in Big Horn up to August before her death in February. Elder Benton said she was the first to be buried in the new cemetery east of Big Horn.”

“I think often of the labor Grandfather and my father put in on the ditch and tunnel through the big hill at Story. All the land was reclaimed under that water. The old pioneers surely knew what it was to do things the hard way, but those were the happy days.”

Because of Mrs. Leavitt’s ill health, about 1888, Mr. Leavitt traded his land to J. B. Harbison in exchange for a “few acres of brush in Iowa” and drove back there. The next year the family drove across Missouri to Pueblo, Colorado, where the mother Rachel Wood Leavitt, died August 3, 1889 and was buried.

Mr. Leavitt drove with his five children back to Big Horn where Roy, Will and Orpha (Mrs. Orpha L. Allen, 109-A Jefferson Street, Watsonville, California) went to school to William Brown as teacher. The brothers, Charles, Andrew and Brenton were too young to attend.

(These quotations from Mrs. Allen’s letter of March 1, 1959, are self-explanatory.) “We moved to the McCormick school district and the boys were schooled there . . . Aunt Sarah Leavitt lived a year with us and then married Jimmy Neal . . . I went to live with Grandfather and Grandmother Wood when ten or eleven years old . . . I stayed with the Erastus Cover family and went to school in Big Horn again to Billie Brown . . . finally I did go to Jessie Lewis, Mrs. Brown and Sula Sackett . . . I went to the Big Horn Basin in the spring of 1879 . . . was married to Augustus T. Allen on June 6, 1900, at Basin, Wyoming.” (There are three Allen sons.)

The Zullig Family

NICKI GARBER

Mr. Abraham Zullig was born April 15, 1834 at Arbon, Canton Thurgau, Switzerland. He was the son of Johannes and Barbara (Keltenberg) Zullig. In the autumn of 1865 he was in Hamilton, Missouri, where he had come from New York after arriving in America. In 1866 he settled near Mooresville, Livingston County, Missouri. To his farm six years later he brought his bride, Elizabeth Sharen, who also was a native of Switzerland where she had been born in Canton Bern, May 14, 1851.

Her parents were John and Margaret (Fugie) Sharen. After her father's death the mother brought her daughter, Elizabeth and a son, John Sharen, to New York on the second voyage of the S. S. Gemfava. In the spring of 1866 they settled in Caldwell County, Missouri.

For ten years after their marriage at Hamilton, Missouri, February 18, 1872 Elizabeth (Sharen) and Abraham Zullig farmed. They shipped part of their goods by the Union Pacific Railroad to Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, and with their son Herbert E. (born October 17, 1876) and their daughter Susan B. (born December 10, 1878) came by covered wagon to Cheyenne and continued to northern Johnson County.

Upon their arrival in Big Horn City August 6, 1882, they settled on the land north of W. E. Jackson. They built a two-room cabin with a dirt roof. It stood just west of the present trench silos westward from Carl Mortenson's house. Herbert Zullig recalled that they did obtain the necessary lumber from A. S. Heald's sawmill in Big Goose canyon where they got out their own logs and waited in turn for the sawing.

Mr. Zullig used his skill gained in youth, to make and mend shoes for his pioneer neighbors. Also he knew how to extract teeth by using a turn-key. Herbert remembered holding the heads of those who came to get a tooth pulled.

The land first chosen was sold to Mr. L. E. Martin and the well-known Zullig ranch on Cruse Creek acquired. Later they had a well finished, commodious house surrounded by a yard of horticultural beauty. They both loved to work with plants and flowers. Mr. Zullig had a copy of BRUNFELS HISTORY OF PLANTS. It was printed in Germany in 1530 and profusely illustrated with wood cuts that were described in French, German and English. He had gotten it when he was a youth traveling for a watch maker

in Switzerland. His joy in the knowledge he had gained from it was evident. His grandsons guard it zealously.

All of the Zullig children in turn attended Big Horn school. Herbert E. graduated from Sheridan High School before Big Horn provided one. He served as Artificer in Company G of the First Battalion, Wyoming Volunteers in the Spanish - American War. They were mustered into service May 10, 1898 and sent to the Philippines. He married Isabel Clara Stahl, June 21, 1905. Their home has been in Sheridan where he was in real estate and insurance business. He died October 4, 1957.

Susan B. married Nathaniel C. Croghan. Their year-old daughter Ruth is buried in Big Horn cemetery. Mrs. Susan Croghan has outlived her husband. She and two children reside in Idaho.

William Zullig born October 14, 1882, was a victim of drowning June 27, 1905.

John Zullig, born August 18, 1884, died December 28, 1908 from measles.

Conrad A. born May 10, 1887 is a veteran of World War I and lives as a rancher on Cruse Creek.

George Archie, born March 31, 1894, is also a rancher, on the Zullig family land.

Abraham Zullig died May 24, 1909 and is buried in the family lot in Mount Hope cemetery at Big Horn.

Elizabeth Zullig remarried in Idaho and died there in September 1929.

John Stewart Family

JOHN ANDERSON

Mr. John Stewart homesteaded the 160 acre tract that included the highest arable fields on Hurlbut Creek above the Edmund Hurlbut ranch.

Mr. Stewart, a lime maker, who brought his family from Arkansas, made lime kilns where he found good limestone and burned lime for the pioneers to use. Even after the Red Grade was made, Mr. Stewart found suitable stone and opened, on top of the first range, several new kilns, traces of which are still visible. After the Burlington railroad came to Sheridan, of course lime and lumber were shipped in, and Mr. Stewart took the contract with the help of his eldest son, "Bill" to carry the mail from Sheridan to Hyattville in the Big Horn Basin. They used a buckboard or pack horses in summer and in winter, snow shoes much of the route. A younger son, "Ed" attended to the farming and the stock. Both sons moved away with their parents.

The eldest daughter, Olive Stewart married Robert Hayes, who homesteaded on Hanna Creek where Victor Garber now lives. Ella Stewart became Mrs. Harry Tarbox; Minnie became Mrs. Nels Darlington; Tressie became Mrs. Abe Mills.

The Robert Hayes family of five daughters, Lillie, Nellie, Irene, Maud, Rachel, attended the Lone Star school until Mr. and Mrs. Hayes sold the ranch and purchased the John F. Lewis land southeast of Mt. Hope Cemetery. From that home the Hayes girls attended Big Horn school. Mr. Hayes was an experienced blacksmith and sometimes operated a shop in Big Horn. Mr. Robert Hayes died in 1934; Mrs. Olive Hayes-DeJarlais in 1937; Mrs. Ella Tarbox in 1956.

OTHER NEIGHBORS

Mr. Frank Fair, a plasterer and brick-layer, homesteaded north of Edmund Hurlbut's land and joined the northeast corner of "Bob" Hayes' homestead.

Above the mouth of White Creek below where the John W. Price family had lived and sold to Mr. John Benton, a bachelor named H. T. Hill, a former Prussian soldier, proved on land where the Moncreiffe residence was built. The land where the ranch house of the Polo Ranch stands was homesteaded by two Norwegian bachelors, Matt and Charley Oser, whose niece, Thoro Oser,

came to keep house for them in the early 1890's before they sold to Mr. J. C. Barr and moved to the Prairie Dog valley.

East of Oser's land was the present "Sieweke" land where the J. T. Wolfe family once lived and later the Will Warriner family and the McKeys. Mr. and Mrs. P. S. McKey became the first foreman family for the Moncreiffe Brothers.

On the west side of Little Goose below Hilman's were two married Croghan brothers who sold their claims to Mr. Wallop and moved away before their children were school age.

H. T. Hill was very serious and high-tempered. Hon. Lyman H. Brooks relates that Hill, who then had a homestead above what is now the polo grounds near the then Benton homestead, was walking up and down in front of the new Sackett and Skinner Store where John (Jack) Sackett was post-master. As Brooks entered the store door, Hill placed his rifle over Brooks shoulder, pointing it at Sackett who stood back of the counter nearby, and instantly as this was being done, Sackett had a 45 calibre Colt steady at Hill's head. Hill said to Sackett (while hidden back of Brooks), "I am going to kill you for sending a letter to lose my homestead stating that I am a foreigner." Sackett talked calmly and said that was not so, and told Hill that if he had his papers to become a citizen of the U.S. he need not worry about what anybody said. So, Sackett talked Hill out of his fury and Brooks was much relieved as the cocked guns were taken down.—C.L.S.

Table of Contents

O. P. Hanna	3
Aunt Jenny	5
The Hilman Family	9
The Gerdels, Parents of First Child	12
The Jackson Family	14
Other Pioneers On Jackson Creek	17
Early Buildings, People and Events On Big Horn Townsite	20
Big Horn's Early School Buildings	29
Early Big Horn Teachers	31
The Wyoming Collegiate Institute	33
With "Benefit of Clergy"	36
Early Johnson County Fairs	40
Troop 'E'	48
Mt. Hope Cemetery	52
James Orr Willits	55
Mr. Oliver Henry Wallop	58
Malcolm Moncreiffe	59
Mr. William Moncreiffe	61
The Austin Family	62
The Dow Family	64
Mr. Lemuel E. Martin	66
The Spear Family	68
The Benton Family	72
Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Wagner and the Burgess Family	78
The Custis Family	81
The Hurlbut Family (First Dairy)	84
The Eckerson Family	87
Family of John Henry Sackett and Martha Ann Sackett	89
William Wallace Sackett	95
The Skinner Family	96
The Makinley Wood Family	100
The Nottingham Homestead	103
Trabing Creek and Kemp Flat Settlers	105
The Harbison Family	107
Cruse Creek Valley	109
The Zullig Family	112
John Stewart Family	114

For the most part, these manuscripts were compiled by Big Horn High School students, 1957-59, under the direction of Mrs. Vie Willits Garber, school librarian. Any material in this magazine may be reproduced with consent of the author.

GUARANTORS: W. W. DeJarnett, Superintendent; Board of Trustees, Mary W. Helvey, Clerk; Zane Hilman, Treasurer, and John Brayton, President, School District No. 1, Big Horn, Wyoming.

THE



BOUND TO PLEASE

Heckman Bindery INC.



APR. 65

N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

